MARVEL KNIGHTS

DAREDEVIL

UNUSUAL SUSPECTS

BRIAN MICHAEL BENDIS • BOB GALE • PAUL JENKINS
DAVID MACK • PHIL WINSLADE • ROB HAYNES

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MARVEL KNIGHTS

DAREDEVIL UNUSUAL SUSPECTS

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DAREDEVIL: NINJA 1

TRUTH BE TOLD, I HAVEN'T HAD A GOOD NIGHT SLEEP SINCE 1982.

I HEAR PEOPLE SAY: "I SLEPT LIKE A LOG LAST NIGHT.

LIKE A BABY--"

I SWEAR-- I WOULDN'T EVEN KNOW WHAT THEY MEANT.

THING IS-- THERE'S ALWAYS A REASON FOR ME NOT TO BE SLEEPING. THERE'S ALWAYS SOMETHING FOR ME TO DO.

SOME DEPOSITION TO READ. SOME HELPLESS SOME SUCH IN NEED OF HELP. SOME CRIME SYNDICATE NEEDS TO BE RIPPED DOWN BRICK BY BRICK.

SO--

I WEAR A LOT OF HATS IN THIS WORLD, AS THE SAYING GOES. A LOT OF HATS.

JUST THE WAY IT WORKED OUT FOR ME.

I'M MATT MURDOCK THE LAWYER.

MATT MURDOCK THE BLIND MAN.

MATT MURDOCK THE FIGHTER.

THE SUPER HERO.

THE MASTERLESS NINJA.

THE CRUSADER.

MATT MURDOCK-- DAREDEVIL.

SO, YOU CAN SEE WHY I SAID WHAT I SAID...

THERE'S ALWAYS A REASON FOR ME NOT TO BE SLEEPING.

AAAHH!

SOMEONE WAS HERE!

SOMEONE WAS JUST HERE IN MY HOME.

IT'S AS OBVIOUS AS IF THEY SPRAY PAINTED THE WORDS "I WAS HERE" ON MY WALL.

Oh NO...

WELL, MAYBE NOT TO YOU.

UNLESS SOME FREAK CHILDHOOD ACCIDENT LEFT YOU BLINDED TO THE WORLD --

--YET LEFT YOUR REMAINING FACILITIES INHUMANLY ACUTE AS WELL.

SEE, TO ME EVERY PERSON LEAVES A TRAIL. A TRAIL IN MUSK.

CHEMICALS IN THE AIR. A TASTE.

IT'S LIKE A FINGERPRINT. LIKE A -- WELL, IT IS A FINGERPRINT.

I FOLLOW IT DOWN TO MY BASEMENT. MY GYM.

AND IMMEDIATELY I KNOW SOMETHING IS OFF.

IT'S A FAMILIAR SCENT IN A WAY -- BUT IT -- SOMETHING ABOUT IT --

-- I JUST CAN'T PUT MY FINGER ON IT.

IT'S GONE.

THE STICK.

IT'S GONE.

IT BELONGED TO MY MASTER. MY SENSEI.

HE CALLED HIMSELF STICK--

THE MAN WHO TOOK MY IGNORANT, ARROGANT, YOUNG, PUNKY SELF AND DID THE IMPOSSIBLE.

HE TRAINED ME TO LIVE WITH MY SITUATION--TO CONTROL MY SENSES--

--AND MADE ME THE MAN I AM.

HE WAS THERE FOR ME AT EVERY TURN. A FATHER WHEN I NEEDED ONE.

AND IF THAT WASN'T ENOUGH--

--HE ULTIMATELY SACRIFICED HIMSELF TO SAVE ME FROM THE DISCIPLES OF THE HAND.

THE HAND--I CAN'T BELIEVE I ALMOST FORGOT ABOUT THEM--

A HUGE OUTFIT OF MERCENARIES AND ASSASSINS. NINJAS FOR HIRE.

THEY DECLARED WAR ON MY MASTER AND HIS OTHER DISCIPLES, "THE SEVEN."

A WAR STICK DIED TO WIN.

AND HIS STICK--HIS STAFF--

IT'S ALL THAT I HAVE LEFT OF HIM.

GLENLIVET. CIGARETTE SMOKE. PANINI STYLE SANDWICHES--THE KIND WITH THE FRENCH FRIES RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE OF THE SANDWICH.

POOL CUE CHALK. MILLER LITE. MIXED TOGETHER WITH A HINT OF GREEN TEA.

I KNOW WHERE YOU WERE.

OH--AND I'M GOING TO FIND YOU.

OKAY, MAYBE YOU CAN'T TELL JUST BY LOOKING AT ME...

OW!

DAREDEVIL NINJAS

SMACK

GLGG!

GRAB HIM!

I GOT HIM! DO IT! DO IT!

... BUT I HATE...

SMASH

... REPEATING MYSELF.

OW!
NO...
I'LL ASK AGAIN:
KONK
GUHNK!
QUIET BACK THERE!
THUNK

I'M LOOKING FOR A STICK.

WAIT A SECOND -- LET'S JUST --

SO TIRED.

SOMEONE BROKE INTO MY HOUSE AND TOOK SOMETHING THAT HAS NO VALUE TO ANYONE BUT ME.

SOMEONE BROKE INTO MY HOUSE AND TOOK SOMETHING THAT...

FIRST OFF, YOU WOULD NEED TO KNOW WHO I AM THAT I WOULD HAVE KNOWN STICK.

SECONDLY, YOU WOULD HAVE TO KNOW WHO I AM AND WHERE I LIVE.

I'M TOO TIRED TO BE OUT DOING THIS NOW.

GREEN TEA.

GREEN TEA AND DIME STORE SKIN MOISTURIZER.

STRONG HEARTBEAT. LIKE A BASS DRUM.

AND IT'S OFFICIAL:

WHOEVER IT IS, THEY ARE DEFINITELY SCREWING WITH ME.

ALL RIGHT, LADY --

-- WHO ARE YOU AND WHY HAVE YOU CRAWLED UP MY NOSE?

OKAY.

IT'S ONE OF THOSE NIGHTS WHERE I AM GOING TO HAVE TO REPEAT MYSELF TEN TIMES.

I ASK AGAIN:

SHE IMMEDIATELY REMINDS ME OF SOMEONE FROM MY PAST. AND I VOWED NEVER TO SPEAK HER NAME AGAIN.

KEEP HER IN THE PAST WHERE SHE BELONGS.

WHO ARE YOU?

AND WHY HAVE YOU CRAWLED UP MY NOSE?

SO ANNOYING...

UKETOTTE KUDASAI.

COME ON, LADY...

YEAH, SURE, NOW SHE'S JUST GOING TO HAND IT OVER GRACIOUSLY.

SHE ISN'T SETTING ME UP FOR ANYTHING OR ANYTHING.

LIKE I BECAME A SUPER HERO YESTERDAY...

LORD, I GUESS I HAVE TO SEE THIS THROUGH...

OH -- WELL, WHAT A SURPRISE.

WHACK

FAK

WHEN, OH, WHEN DO I -- OOPS.

MY HEART'S NOT IN THIS.

I'M TIRED AND CRANKY AND THIS SMELLS LIKE NINJA CRAP TO ME.

I REALLY CAN'T STAND NINJA CRAP.

HAI!

WHACK

FOCUS MURDOCK.

SHE'S TRAINED. TALENT.

FAST AND FURIOUS.

WHO IS THIS?

CRACK

SLAICE

AAAAHH!

ACTUALLY, YOU KNOW WHAT?

I'M THIS CLOSE TO NOT EVEN CARING.

SHE'S VIETNAMESE.

THAT DOESN'T HELP ME.

BUT I KNOW THAT I HAVE NEVER MET THIS WOMAN.

WHY IS IT THAT EVERY TIME I LEAVE MY HOUSE --

-- I AM HAVING A FISTFIGHT WITH A WOMAN?

HAA!

YOU NEVER SEE WOMEN PICKING FIGHTS WITH CAPTAIN AMERICA. BUT ME? SURE.

NO. NO. HEY!

LISTEN TO ME -- HEY!

I'M NOT GOING TO FIGHT YOU.

YOU TELL ME WHAT THE PROBLEM IS --

-- YOU KNOW, OTHER THAN THE OBVIOUS PSYCHOLOGICAL ONE ASSOCIATED WITH CREATING SITUATIONS LIKE THIS.

I'M PRETTY SURE I DON'T KNOW YOU LADY, SO...

KARE WA SUBARASHII KAKUTOUKA DA.

WHO THE HELL IS THIS?

WHO THE HELL ARE YOU?

JAPANESE. OSAKA.

THE COAT IS HANDMADE.

HE HAD A BOWL OF SOUP TWO HOURS AGO. NONE OF THIS HELPS ME.

KARE NO KUNREN GA DOKO MADE IKU KA YOUSU WO UKAGA OW.

WHAT THE HELL IS WITH THE TEA? IT'S BEGINNING TO REALLY CREEP ME OUT.

KARE WA KOKORO DE TATAKATTE INAI. KARE GA KOKORO DE TATAKAU NO WA MA TOU.

IS THIS ANOTHER KINGPIN HITMAN AUDITION?

SOME NEW TRICK OF THE HAND?

ME GA MEINAKUTEMO KARE NARA DEKIRU.

KITTO.

EVEN THE HAND IS MORE SAVVY THAN THIS... SPEAK!

MAN, I HATE -- HATE -- HATE THIS NINJA CRAP.

I HATE HAVING TO WAIT FOR THE OTHER FOOT TO DROP.

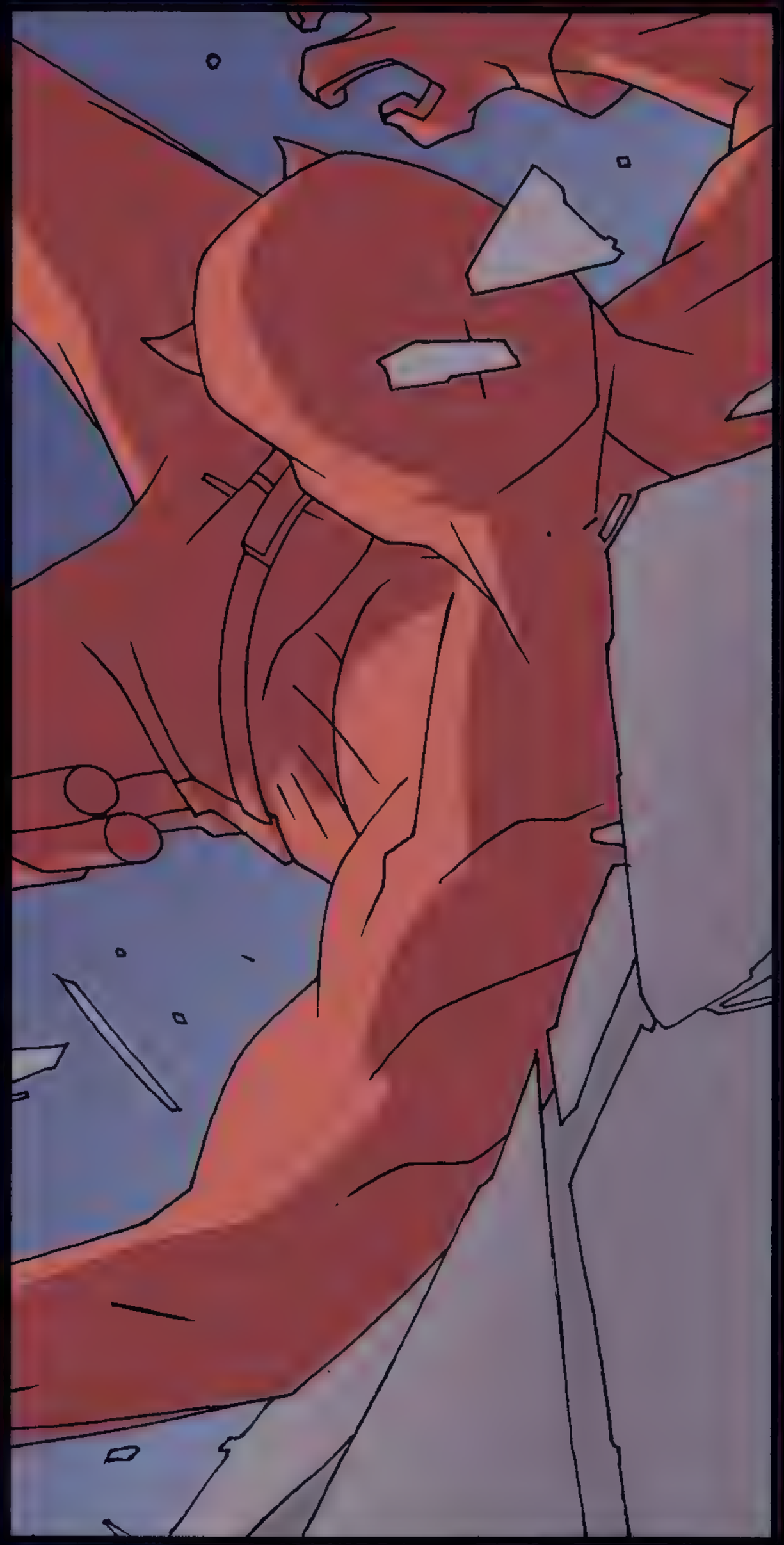
I'M TRYING TO BE CIVIL ABOUT THIS.

TRYING TO REMAIN CALM.

BUT I'M GIVING YOU 'TIL THE COUNT OF FIVE TO STAND BACK AND STOP ALL THIS NINJA NONSENSE.

1... 2...

5...



ALL RIGHT THEN.

BELIEVE ME WHEN I SAY --

-- TWO PHONE CALLS AND A FINSKY AND I CAN HAVE YOU BACK ON A BOAT TO THE HOMELAND BY MORNING.

BECAUSE YOU WIN!

I WASN'T INTO THIS, BUT NOW I AM.

HAA!

SPACK

AARR!

SMACK

KIBISHII NE. YARISUGI RU NA YO.

KARE NARA DAIJOUBU.

HUUUGG

HUUG

HUUG

HA!

SPACK

DARO?

PAK

IT WAS AN HONOR, "LITTLE RUNT."

YOU ARE A FASCINATING WARRIOR.

WHAT DID YOU --?

LITTLE RUNT?

AND JUST LIKE THAT... POOF!

NOT A TRACE. NOT A TRAIL. NOTHING.

THEY KNOW HOW TO COVER THEIR TRACKS. THEY KNOW THE ART OF STEALTH WALKING.

DEFINITELY NINJA TRAINING.

BUT HE SAID --

"LITTLE RUNT?"

MY SHOULDER IS KILLING ME.

SO, I SPEND ANOTHER HOUR NAILING SHUT MY SKYLIGHT WINDOWS AGAIN AND READJUSTING THE CODES ON MY ALARM SYSTEMS.

I BARELY GET THE HATCHES BATTENED DOWN WHEN I CRASH.

I HATE SLEEPING IN MY COSTUME...

BUT I JUST COULDN'T KEEP MY EYES... OPEN ANOTHER...

DON'T HAVE TO SET AN ALARM. THE CITY WILL WAKE ME UP.

NOTHING MORE EYE-OPENING THAN NEW YORK CITY.

THE SMELLS, THE YELLING. THE MACHINERY. FOUR MILLION CAR HORNS. SIXTEEN MILLION BRAKE PADS SQUEAL. FOUR MILLION TIRES ROLLING ON PAVEMENT.

YOU CAN'T COUNT ON MUCH IN THIS LIFE.

BUT NEW YORK CITY AT THE CRACK OF DAWN IS... WAIT A MINUTE...

DAREDEVIL: NINJA 2

WHEN I WAS A YOUNG MAN, MY SENSEI, MY MASTER, STICK, TAUGHT ME THE LEGEND.

IT GOES SOMETHING LIKE: JAPAN WAS CREATED WHEN THE GODS IZANAGI AND IZANAMI DIPPED THEIR MATCHING JEWELED SWORDS INTO THE SEA.

PLEASE, DAREDEVIL -- IT IS NOT WHAT YOU --

HOW DARE YOU!

HOW -- *DARE* -- YOU!

THEY SAY THE TWO GODS THEN DREW THEIR WEAPONS FROM THE WATER, AND FOUR DROPS SLIPPED OFF THE BLADES.

PLEASE, LISTEN --

THEY SAY THAT THESE DROPS BECAME THE FOUR MAIN ISLANDS OF JAPAN.

AND WHAT COULD YOU POSSIBLY SAY?!

DAREDEVIL NINJAS

IS IT TRUE? DO I BELIEVE IN SUCH LEGEND AND LORE? I DON'T KNOW...

...ALL I WANT TO KNOW IS HOW THE HELL I GOT HERE.

YOU KIDNAPPED ME AGAINST MY WILL -- TOOK ME FROM MY HOME IN MANHATTAN...

... AND BROUGHT ME HERE TO OSAKA AGAINST MY WILL?

WHO ARE YOU PEOPLE?

AND WHY ARE YOU SCREWING WITH ME?!

PLEASE, DAREDEVIL, JUST CALM DOWN.

STONE!

HOW DID YOU DO THIS? HOW AM I IN JAPAN?

SAIMONJUTSU. AN ANCIENT MIXTURE.

GREAT. YOU SLIPPED ME A MICKEY.

FOR LACK OF A BETTER WORD.

YOU DRUGGED ME AND BROUGHT ME TO JAPAN?

YES.

" YOU OWN A PLANE?"

"NO.

"YOU PACKED A BAG.

"YOU GOT DRESSED.

"YOU GOT ON A PLANE WITH US.

"LAWYER MATT MURDOCK JOINED SOME CLIENTS ON A TRIP TO JAPAN."

YOU WERE UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF THE SAIMONJUTSU!

ALL APPEARANCES AND FUNCTIONS SEEMED NORMAL TO THOSE AROUND YOU.

IF YOU GOT ME ON A PLANE AS MATT MURDOCK, THEN WHY THE HELL AM I IN MY COSTUME?

WE THOUGHT YOU'D BE LESS AGITATED --

-- IF YOU WOKE UP IN THE CLOTHES YOU LAST REMEMBERED BEING IN.

YOU WERE TRYING NOT TO AGITATE ME?

... YES.

TELL ME, HOW DO YOU THINK THAT WORKED OUT?

WE NEED YOUR HELP.

SUCKS TO BE YOU.

THE HAND...

... THE HAND HAS RETURNED.

WE NEED YOUR HELP.

YOU SHOULD HAVE ASKED ME TO COME.

WOULD YOU HAVE?

I HATE THIS NINJA CRAP.

I HATE IT.

EVERY SINGLE TIME IT'S NOTHING BUT LIES, HALF-TRUTHS, AND MISGUIDED LOYALTIES. STAY AWAY FROM ME AND MY LIFE.

IT'S A LONG STORY, BUT WHEN I WAS A BOY LIVING IN THE STREETS OF NEW YORK'S HELL'S KITCHEN --

-- I TRIED TO SAVE AN OLD MAN FROM BEING HIT BY A TRUCK. I SAVED THE MAN, BUT THE ACCIDENT LEFT ME BLIND FOR LIFE.

AND AS BLIND AS I FOUND MYSELF? THAT IS AS STRONG AND AS POWERFUL AS MY OTHER SENSES HAD BECOME.

SEE, WHEN I AWOKE THIS MORNING I COULD TELL I WAS IN JAPAN BECAUSE OF THE TASTE ON MY TONGUE.

THAT'S HOW STRONG MY SENSES ARE.

BUT IF IT WASN'T FOR MY MASTER STICK FINDING ME, THESE SENSES WOULD HAVE DRIVEN ME INSANE. OF THIS I HAVE NO DOUBT.

HE TAUGHT ME THE CONTROL OF THE MIND AND SPIRIT THAT I NEEDED TO GET ON IN THIS WORLD.

STONE IS ANOTHER OF STICK'S DISCIPLES. HE IS A STRONG AND NOBLE WARRIOR BUT I DON'T KNOW HIM FROM A HOLE IN THE WALL.

I JUST KNOW HE IS AS GOOD AS IT GETS. THAT'S WHY HE WAS ABLE TO SNEAK UP ON ME WITHOUT MY SENSING HIM IN THE ROOM.

I ALSO KNOW THAT HIM COMING TO ASK ME FOR HELP IS ABOUT AS LIKELY AS WILSON FISK BECOMING THE SPOKESWOMAN FOR WEIGHT WATCHERS.

TO BE HONEST -- I SHOULD HAVE HEARD HIM OUT BECAUSE MY --

IF I MAY FINISH WHAT I WAS SAYING...

WE CHALLENGED YOU IN COMBAT BECAUSE WE HAVE BEEN OUT OF COMMUNICATION FOR QUITE A WHILE, YOU AND I.

I WAS NOT SURE YOU WERE THE WARRIOR YOU ONCE WERE. I NEEDED TO KNOW.

I SEE NOW THAT YOU ARE SUPERIOR. MORE FOCUSED.

THAT YOU HAD KEPT UP YOUR TRAINING.

EVER HEAR OF THE NEWSPAPER? TV? INTERNET?

I DO APOLOGIZE FOR THE DECEPTIONS. BUT YOU ARE A COMPLICATED MAN AND THESE ARE COMPLICATED TIMES.

AND I KNOW THAT YOU -- AS YOU SAY -- *"HATE THIS NINJA CRAP."*

EVEN THOUGH IT IS NOT WRONG TO SAY IT HAS SAVED YOU ON NUMEROUS OCCASIONS.

YOU MUST KNOW I WOULD NOT PURSUE YOU LIKE THIS IN SUCH A VIGOROUS MANNER IF I DIDN'T TRULY NEED YOU.

OUR TRIBE -- THE DISCIPLES OF THE SEVEN --

-- HAD NUMBERED ALMOST THREE HUNDRED A YEAR AGO.

WE WERE QUIET AND PEACEFUL PRACTITIONERS OF THE MARTIAL ARTS, LIVING IN AN ABANDONED TEMPLE OUTSIDE OF THE CITY.

BUT UNBEKNOWNST TO US -- THE HAND HAD REGROUPED AND GROWN STRONG IN NUMBER...

... NUMBER, MONEY, POWER, AND RESOLVE.

THREE HUNDRED?

WE ARE NOW FIVE.

OUR LOSSES -- THEY ARE GREAT.

WHAT ARE THEY AFTER?

THIS IS STILL UNCLEAR TO US -- WE...

WELL, LET ME ASK --

DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA WHERE THE HAND FORTRESS IS? THEIR BASE OF OPERATIONS?

YES. THE FORTRESS OF SHANKANRA IN SOUTHERN OSAKA. OF COURSE IT IS FORTIFIED AND THEIR NUMBER IS STRONG THERE.

WELL, I SAY -- I SAY YOU, ME AND TRAHN GO INTO THE COMPOUND AND FIND OUT WHAT'S WHAT.

FIND A WEAK LINK AND SQUEEZE HIM TILL IT HURTS. AS GOOD AS THEY ARE AS A GROUP --

-- ONE MEMBER OF THE HAND ALONE IN THE DARK WITH A BLADE TO HIS THROAT IS A WEAK LITTLE WEASEL WAITING TO SPILL IT.

JUST GO THERE?

YOU CAN'T SAY THEY'RE EXPECTING IT AT THIS POINT.

BUT LISTEN -- I'M NOT SAYING PICK A FIGHT. THAT'S JUST CRAZY TALK. I'M SAYING GET IN, FIND OUT WHAT'S WHAT AND GET OUT.

AND YOU THREE WILL STAY BACK. IN CASE SOMETHING HAPPENS TO US, WE NEED YOU HIDDEN AWAY.

WHY US THREE?

WELL, BECAUSE I CAN GO HOME AS SOON AS THIS IS OVER --

-- AND STONE IS THE KIND OF GUY YOU WANT BEHIND YOU IF TONS OF NINJAS START JUMPING AROUND --

-- AND YOU'RE A GIRL.

WHAT THE HELL DOES THAT MEAN?

NOTHING. I'M STILL PISSED AT YOU FOR NEW YORK, SO...

BUT LISTEN, YOUR LOSS IS TREMENDOUS. TRULY. I KNOW.

AND YOU'RE A LITTLE PUNCH DRUNK FROM IT, SURE.

BUT IF WE ARE GOING TO DO THIS, LET'S JUST DO IT. JUST DO IT. INSTEAD OF WAITING FOR THEM TO FIND US -- LET'S GO GET THEM.

IT IS WHAT WE WERE TRAINED TO DO.

IT IS WHAT STICK WOULD DO.

FOGGY?

FOGGY, I'M NOT GOING TO BE IN ON MONDAY.

WELL, I'VE DECIDED TO TAKE A DAY OR TWO OFF. JUST NEED TIME TO CLEAR MY HEAD AND GET SOME READING OUT OF THE WAY FOR THE WALKER TRIAL.

YEAH -- NO -- I'M FINE. WHAT?

JUST GOT OUT OF TOWN. COULD YOU CALL MABEL FOR ME AND HAVE HER RESCHEDULE ALL MY -- YEAH. THANKS.

I SWEAR, I'M FINE, FOGGY. WHAT?

NO, JUST A LITTLE SINUS THING.

I'M JUST GOING TO HANG OUT AND -- HELLO?

FOGGY? DAMN CELL PHONE.

HATE THESE THINGS.

GIVE IT BACK.

BY THE WAY, STONE -- USING THE PHONE LIKE THAT JUST NOW REMINDS ME --

-- YOU COULD HAVE ACTUALLY CALLED ME AND ASKED ME IF I WANTED TO COME TO JAPAN.

TEN CENTS A MINUTE.

ARE YOU DONE?

UH... NO.

ONE MOVE OR SOUND AND YOU WILL CEASE TO BE.

WH-WHAT? WHAT DO YOU WANT?

I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING.

Uh Huh.

DO YOU KNOW WHAT I HATE MOST ABOUT THE HAND?

IT'S WHEN YOU KILL THEM, THEY WON'T JUST LIE DEAD.

THEY DO THAT THING WHERE THEY JUST BURST INTO A BILLOW OF SMOKE.

I DON'T MIND SO MUCH WHEN THEY DIE -- THAT I'M FINE WITH -- IT'S THE STENCH. REVOLTING.

IT GETS IN YOUR CLOTHES. YOU BREATHE IT IN.

I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU WANT --

YOU'RE BREATHING IN A DEAD PERSON. ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS...

FFFKKK!

BETTER PIPE DOWN.

MY FRIEND HERE IS QUITE PERTURBED ABOUT THIS WAR YOU IDIOTS HAVE WAGED ON THE SEVEN FOR NO GOOD REASON --

-- AND HE JUST WANTS TO GO ROOM TO ROOM AND KILL YOU ALL.

I SAY YOU BETTER TELL US WHAT'S GOING ON AROUND HERE OR YOU'RE GOING TO WISH THAT --

WELL, LET'S JUST SAY THAT I'M PRETTY SURE HE CAN KEEP FINDING PLACES TO CUT.

MMF AHH MMF ARGHH...

THERE'S -- NOTHING YOU CAN DO -- IT'S TOO LATE.

GGGRRR...

WE -- AARRGGHH -- WE FOUND THE NEXT ONE.

THE NEXT ONE WHAT?

THEY -- ARRGGHH -- THEY DECIDED TO WIPE OUT THE SEVEN OR -- OR -- OR AT LEAST BEAT THEM INTO SUBMISSION BEFORE PURSUING HIM.

THE NEXT ONE WHO?

Y-Y-Y-YOU'RE TOO LATE AND TOO LITTLE.

THE -- AAAHHH -- THE SEARCH WAS EXHAUSTIVE BUT THEY F-F-F-F-F-FOUND HIM.

THE NEXT ONE IS H-HERE AND HE IS OURS THIS TIME.

AND -- AND =NNNN= THEY WILL RETURN FROM NEW YORK WITH HIM AND YOU WILL BE TOO LATE.

TOO LATE...

WHAT DID YOU DO? WHAT DID --

SILENCE.

WHAT IS THIS? WHAT DID WE AGREE TO? NO KILLING!

WE MUST GO.

I SAID NO KILLING UNLESS --

WE MUST GO.

I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHAT HE WAS TALKING ABOUT. WHAT *"ONE"*? WHY DID YOU KILL --?

WAIT.

THEY ARE HERE.

ARE YOU SURE?

PRETTY SURE.

HAIIAYY!

TRAHN, MIND IF I BORROW YOUR PHONE AGAIN?

WHAT?

I NEED TO USE YOUR PHONE AGAIN IF IT'S OKAY.

NOW?

IF YOU DON'T -- UGH -- MIND...

POLICE, PLEASE.

ENGLISH, YES.

THANK YOU. PLEASE COME QUICKLY.

WE ARE IN THE SOVEREIGN PROVINCE OF ORCHARD ROAD. THE SHAOLIN TEMPLE ROAD.

YES.

THERE IS A CRAZY MAN WITH AN AXE, HE HURT THIS YOUNG BOY.

BOOP

HELLO, FIRE DEPARTMENT, PLEASE.

ENGLISH, YES.

PLEASE! THERE'S A HUGE FIRE!

IN THE GREENERY OF ORCHARD ROAD.

THERE'S A WOMAN SCREAMING.

PLEASE COME QUICKLY.

COME QUICKLY!

NNYAARRGHH!

AAH!

THUMP

SPAK

WOOWEEWOOWEEWOOWEEW

WHAT KIND OF FIGHTING STYLE DO YOU CALL THAT?

AIR TOUCH CELLULAR.

LET US GO AS WELL.

YOU GONNA TELL ME WHAT THE HELL IS GOING ON?

ON THE PLANE.

THE PLANE? THE PLANE BACK TO NEW YORK.

YES.

FIGURES.

DAREDEVIL: NINJA **3**

STONE, WE HAVE ABOUT -- WHAT? A TWELVE HOUR FLIGHT...

SO...

YES. WELL, FAIR ENOUGH, MURDOCK.

AND START AT THE BEGINNING.

THEN SPEAK WITHOUT SPEAKING.

I'M A LITTLE RUSTY.

THIS STORY -- IT STARTS IN...

I'M NEVER GOING BACK TO COACH.

YOU'RE WELCOME, TRAHN.

YOU WANT TO MARRY ME, MURDOCK?

WHAT?

I SWEAR -- I COULD MARRY YOU JUST SO YOU'D FLY ME AROUND FIRST CLASS.

UH HUH.

THIS STORY STARTS IN 81 A.D.

81 A.D.?

81 A.D.

WELL, I DID SAY START AT THE BEGINNING...

THIS IS THE STORY OF PRINCE YAMATO-TAKE.

"A PRINCE WAS BORN TO EMPEROR KEIKO THE 12TH. ONE OF, THEY SAY, 80 CHILDREN.

"WHEN THIS PRINCE WAS 16 YEARS OLD, A REBELLIOUS CHIEF OF THE KUMASO IN KYUSHU, TAKERU, TOOK UP ARMS AGAINST THE EMPEROR AND HIS COURT.

"SO, IN SECRET, THE BOY PRINCE DISGUISED HIMSELF AS A SERVING GIRL FOR A BANQUET WHERE HE KNEW HIS FATHER'S ENEMY TO BE.

"AND AT THE BANQUET, THIS TAKERU DRANK HIMSELF INTO AN EMBARRASSING MESS.

"THAT IS WHEN THE PRINCE REVEALED HIMSELF AND STABBED TAKERU WITH A SWORD.

"THE DYING CHIEFTAIN, AMAZED AT THE PRINCE'S COURAGE AND INGENUITY, WHISPERED TO HIM WITH HIS DYING BREATH HIS NEW NAME: *"YAMATO-TAKE,"* WHICH MEANS...

"THE BRAVE HERO OF JAPAN."

"YES.

"NOW WE MOVE FORWARD TO 110 A.D. EASTERN REBELS ROSE UP TO THE IMPERIAL COURT. BEFORE HIS BATTLE AGAINST THEM THE PRINCE STOPPED AT ISE SHRINE TO PRAY.

"IT WAS THERE THAT HIS AUNT, PRINCESS YAMATO-HIME, THE HIGH-PRIESTESS OF THE SHRINE, GAVE HIM A SWORD -- A SACRED SWORD FROM THE ISE SHRINES. THE SWORD OF KUSANAGI-NO-TSURUGI.

"WHEN THE REBELS SAW THE PRINCE ARRIVING TO ATTACK -- THEY SET FIRE TO THE FIELDS.

"THE PRINCE SAVED HIMSELF BY CUTTING DOWN THE HIGH GRASS WITH THIS SWORD.

"IT WAS THEN THAT HE DISCOVERED THE SWORD'S TRUE MAGIC."

"THIS SWORD IS CONSIDERED, TO THIS DAY, ONE OF THE TRULY IMPORTANT SYMBOLS OF THE IMPERIAL REGALIA AND ONE OF THE CORNERSTONES OF OUR SOCIETY AS SAMURAI.

"THE SWORD, UNTIL RECENTLY, WAS ENSHRINED IN A SHINTO SHRINE AT ATSUTA NEAR NAGOYA, IN THE OWARI PROVINCE.

"THEY SAY ONCE A KOREAN BUDDHIST STOLE 'THE GRASSCUTTER' AND TRIED TO TAKE IT TO HIS HOMELAND.

"THE GODS WOULD NOT HAVE IT. THE WIND AND RAIN GODS FORCED THE MONK TO TURN BACK.

"BUT IT SEEMS THAT EVEN THE GODS CAN BE TRICKED --

"-- BECAUSE NOW THE SWORD HAS YET AGAIN BEEN STOLEN."

THE HAND?

WE BELIEVE.

WHY? I MEAN -- WHY WOULD A NINJA OUTFIT FOR HIRE...?

BECAUSE, OBVIOUSLY, THEY EITHER HAVE OR THINK THEY HAVE DISCOVERED "THE NEXT ONE."

"THE NEXT ONE" WHAT?

THE NEXT REINCARNATED SOUL OF --

"...THE BRAVE HERO OF JAPAN."

YOU CAN IMAGINE THE POWER ONE WOULD HOLD OVER OUR PART OF THE WORLD -- THE POWER OF THE ONE WHO RETURNS THE SACRED SWORD TO ITS RIGHTFUL OWNER.

BUT THE HAND ARE NINJA. BY DEFINITION THEY ARE JUST A SECRET SOCIETY. NOT PART OF OUR --

YES. AND WHY IS THAT, DO YOU THINK?

CONTROL OVER THE WARRIOR SOUL OF YAMATO TAKE IS WHAT THE BATTLE BETWEEN THE SEVEN AND THE HAND HAS ALWAYS BEEN ABOUT. IT IS WHAT KEPT THE FIGHT OURS. WHY, NO MATTER HOW OUT-NUMBERED OR OVERPOWERED, WE ALWAYS HAD THE UPPER HAND.

I DON'T UNDERSTAND.

WE MUST FIND THIS CHILD IF THEY HAVE NOT ALREADY.

HOW DO WE KNOW IT IS A CHILD?

BECAUSE WE KNEW THE IDENTITY OF THE LAST ONE -- THE LAST REINCARNATION OF THE SOUL-- AND HE -- HE IS NOW DEAD.

WHO WAS IT?

OUR SENSEI.

WAIT, BUT I NEVER SAW STICK WITH A SWORD OF ANY KIND, LET ALONE ONE THAT --

THE STICK SYMBOLIZED HIS FEELINGS ABOUT HIS PLACE IN THINGS. HE EVEN TOOK ITS NAME. HE USED A WEAPON OF SIMPLICITY AND ONE THAT WAS BORN FROM THE EARTH. NOT MAN-MADE, HE SAID. FROM THE EARTH.

BUT OUR SENSEI IS GONE. ANOTHER HAS TAKEN HIS PLACE.

ANOTHER...

IF THEY HAVE BOTH THE SWORD AND THE ONE WHO BEARS THE SOUL OF THE PRINCE...

I DIDN'T KNOW ANY OF THIS. I NEVER KNEW THE FIGHT BETWEEN THE HAND AND THE SEVEN WENT SO --

NOT MANY DO.

I ASSURE YOU THAT MOST OF THE HAND DOESN'T EVEN KNOW THE REASONS WE FIGHT. THEY THINK IT IS JUST VENDETTAS AND BLOOD HONOR. YOU HAVE TO REMEMBER, MOST OF THE HAND DOESN'T EVEN KNOW THE IDENTITY OF THEIR CLAN MASTER -- THEIR JONIN.

DO YOU?

NO. IF I DID, THIS WOULD BE OVER.

SOMETIMES -- SOMETIMES IN BATTLE, WHEN THE ADRENALINE IS GOING -- I HEAR THE MASTER'S VOICE IN MY HEAD.

YES, RESIDUE FROM 'SPEAKING WITHOUT WORDS,' AS WE DO NOW.

IT'S QUITE ANNOYING.

I ACTUALLY FIND IT COMFORTING.

YOU WOULD.

AND THE NEXT MOVE -- FIND THE CHILD?

OR FIND THE HAND BEFORE THEY FIND US.

THEY ARE TRACKERS AND SHADOW WALKERS AND OFTEN ONE STEP AHEAD OF US.
THAT IS HOW WE HAVE LOST SO MANY. WE MUST ASSUME.
BUT WE SHOULD FIND THE CHILD.
THEY MIGHT BE READY FOR US.
BUT THE CHILD IS MORE IMPORTANT.
I ♥ N.Y.
THERE IS NOTHING MORE IMPORTANT. IT'S ALL IMPORTANT.
WAIT. HOW WILL WE FIND THE CHILD?
ONE OF THEIR GREATEST TALENTS IS THEIR ABILITY TO DISGUISE.
THE *"FIVE WAYS OF GOING."*
KEEP AN EYE OUT.
"I" SHOULD KEEP AN EYE OUT?
FIGURATIVELY.
WELL, YOU LET ME KNOW IF YOU SEE ANYTHING.
PSHOO
PSHOO
PSHOO

I MEAN, Y'KNOW, OTHER THAN THAT.

STONE, I CAN'T HAVE THIS.

I CAN'T HAVE BLIND LAWYER MATT MURDOCK FIGHTING AN ALL-OUT NINJA WAR IN THE MIDDLE OF LAGUARDIA.

SORT OF DEFEATS THE POINT OF A SECRET IDENTITY FOR BEING DAREDEVIL.

"WELL, OFFICER, I WAS HIT IN THE FACE BY SOME RADIOACTIVE ISOTOPE WHEN I WAS A KID...

"...AND EVEN THOUGH IT BLINDED ME FOR LIFE, IT ENHANCED THE REST OF MY SENSES TO SUPERHUMAN LEVELS. CAN WE JUST KEEP IT BETWEEN US?"

I CAN'T DO THIS HERE.

DO WHAT YOU HAVE TO.

I WASN'T ASKING.

HIM! AFTER HIM!

"SENSEI STICK?"

"WHAT, MURDOCK?"

"WHERE DID THE NINJAS COME FROM? I MEAN -- WHERE DID IT ALL START?"

"WHAT AM I? YOUR $#%!!IN' HISTORY PROFESSOR? READ A BOOK."

"I JUST DON'T UNDERSTAND THE --"

"GOD! DON'T WHINE -- LISTEN AND LEARN...

"BACK IN THE OLD DAYS... "

"WHEN?"

"I DON'T KNOW, BEFORE ELECTRICITY, OKAY?

"BACK IN THE OLD DAYS THESE PRIVILEGED FAMILIES -- RICH FAMILIES ROSE UP IN POWER.

OOF!

MY BABBBYYY!

"THEY STARTED FIGHTING AMONGST EACH OTHER FOR CONTROL OF JAPAN."

"AND THESE WERE DIRTY FIGHTS, KIDDO.

"BACKSTABBING AARON SPELLING MELROSE PLACE KIND OF $@%#.

"AND WHEN YOU FIGHT DIRTY -- YOU NEED DIRTY FIGHTERS. SPIES AND ASSASSINS.

"SPECIALITY WARRIORS TO FIGHT FOR THEM IN SECRET. YA WITH ME?"

"I'M WITH YOU, BUT... "

"SO PRACTITIONERS OF THESE KIND OF SHADOW WARRIOR ARTS CAME IN GREAT DEMAND AND...

"SO, TA DAA... THE GODDAMN NINJA WAS BORN."

"AND AS THESE NINJAS GAINED IN POPULARITY SO DID THE STORIES...

"*OOH* YEAH, THESE BIG STORIES OF SUPER NINJA POWERS AND ABILITIES BEYOND THOSE OF MORTAL MEN.

"AND THE NINJA ACTUALLY ENCOURAGED THIS DEVIOUS KINDA P.R. BECAUSE IN REALITY THEY KNEW THEY WERE NOTHING COMPARED TO THE MIGHTY SAMURAI.

"SEE, THE SAMURAI -- NOW THEY ARE SUPERIOR WARRIORS TO NINJA IN EVERY WAY. TRAINED, PRECISE. HONORABLE.

"BUT THESE SILLY OVER-THE-TOP STORIES WORKED FOR THE NINJA.

"STILL DO."

"BUT MASTER STICK, I HEARD THEY CAN TURN INTO ANIMALS. SHAPE-SHIFTERS AND... "

"SEE WHAT I MEAN? I BEEN ON THIS PLANET A LONG TIME, KID, AND I AIN'T NEVER SEEN NOTHING TURN INTO NOTHIN'.

"DON'T GET ME WRONG, NINJA ARE CUNNING WARRIORS AND TRAINED -- AND NOT WITHOUT TALENT.

"A WORTHY OPPONENT FACE-TO-FACE... BUT THEY ARE UNRULY. UNFOCUSED."

"THEY CAN'T CATCH A BULLET IN THEIR TEETH? BECAUSE I READ --"

"SHUT UP."

"THE SAMURAI FOLLOW THE SAYING: *'LIVE BY THE SWORD, DIE BY THE SWORD.'*

"A SAMURAI HAS NO FEAR OF DEATH. HE HAS HIS SWORD AND HE FOLLOWS THE WARRIOR'S CODE OF HONOR."

"THE BUSHIDO."

"THERE YOU GO. SEE, IF A SAMURAI FAILED HIS CODE..."

"-- HE WOULD COMMIT SEPPUKU. BUT THE NINJA FOLLOW NO CODE?"

"THE CODE OF THE NINJA: WHATEVER IT TAKES.

"AND THAT'S NO CODE. THERE'S NO HONOR IN THAT.

"BUT IF YOU WANT TO BE A SNEAKY BASTARD, A CHEAT AND A THIEF... THEN IT'S DEFINITELY THE WAY TO BE.

"A SAMURAI WOULD NEVER SNEAK OR CHEAT. A SAMURAI WOULD NEVER ASSASSINATE. A SAMURAI WOULD NEVER SABOTAGE.

"BUT A NINJA WOULD SNEAK UP AND STAB YOU IN THE BACK!"

"BUT WHY DON'T WE DO THAT AS WELL, IF IT --?"

"MURDOCK, IF YOU TAKE ANYTHING AWAY FROM OUR TIME TOGETHER, TAKE THIS:

"LIFE IS FULL OF CONFLICTS.

"FIGHTS WILL COME AT YOU FROM EVERY DIRECTION AND FOR WHATEVER REASON."

"WHAT'S TRULY IMPORTANT IS HOW YOU FIGHT THESE FIGHTS.

"AND THE SAMURAI WAY IS TO FIGHT WITH HONOR. TO FACE THE FIGHT HEAD ON."

"BECAUSE IT DOESN'T MATTER IF YOU WIN. IT MATTERS HOW YOU WIN.

DROP YOUR WEAPONS! HANDS IN THE AIR!

DROP THE SWORD. WHAT THE HELL IS THIS?

OFFICERS, DON'T -- IT'S TOO DANGEROUS.

"YOU DON'T RUN AWAY -- YOU FACE YOUR FIGHTS LIKE A WARRIOR."

BLAM

BLAM

BLAM

OH MY GOD!

STONE!
STONE!

WE GOTTA GET SOME GUYS UP ON THE ROOF! GET SOME --!
DON'T BOTHER...
WHAT?

"BECAUSE IF YOU'RE A WARRIOR THAT CAN'T FACE YOUR FIGHTS --
THEY'RE ALREADY GONE.

"-- IF YOU'RE A WARRIOR WITHOUT HONOR --
"-- THEN WHAT ARE YOU?"
YOU SURE?

PRETTY SURE.

NEVER SAW THEM AGAIN.

NEVER HEARD FROM THEM -- NEVER SAW THEM.

CAN YOU BELIEVE THAT?

THEY USED ME.

USED ME TO FIGHT THEIR FIGHT FOR THEM.

USED ME AS TO MAKE THEIR RETREAT.

USED ME BLUE.

GOD, I REALLY HATE THEM.

THE COUPLE MEMBERS OF THE HAND THEY DID ARREST WEREN'T TALKING -- THEY'LL DEPORT THEM.

THE AIRPORT KEPT IT AS LOW PROFILE AS THEY COULD IN THE MEDIA. I SAW A REPORT THAT BLAMED THE WHOLE THING ON SPIDER-MAN.

POOR KID.

I JUST CAN'T --I JUST CAN'T BELIEVE STONE AND TRAHN NEVER MADE CONTACT WITH ME AGAIN.

NOT A PEEP. NOT A POSTCARD. NOT A FRUIT BASKET. NOTHING.

I KNOW THE GOAL OF ALL THIS IS BIGGER THAN MY PRECIOUS LITTLE EGO. I KNOW THAT.

AND I'M SURE IN THEIR HEADS THEY THINK THAT WHATEVER THEY ARE DOING WITHOUT ME IS BEST DONE WITHOUT ME.

BUT -- BUT WOULD IT HAVE KILLED THEM TO LET ME SEE IT ALL THE WAY THROUGH?

WOULD IT HAVE KILLED THEM TO GIVE ME SOME CLOSURE ON THIS?

IF THERE IS "A NEXT ONE"? IF MY MASTER IS ALIVE -- WILL THEY FIND HIM?

I HATE THIS NINJA CRAP.

DAREDEVIL NINJAS

THIS IS BY FAR THE BEST PART OF MY JOB.

I'M SURE.

DEAD END

SOME OF THESE POOR CHILDREN -- THEY COME INTO THE WORLD UNDER SUCH STRESSFUL CIRCUMSTANCES -- BY NO FAULT OF THEIR OWN, OF COURSE.

JUST BABIES.

AND -- AND YOU JUST WANT TO GIVE THEM A FRESH START IN LIFE.

WELL YES, OF COURSE.

WELL, THIS LITTLE ONE, WE HAD A FAMILY ALL LINED UP FOR HER A COUPLE MONTHS AGO --

-- THEY WENT THROUGH THE WHOLE PROCESS AND THEN ALL OF A SUDDEN... THEY BACK OUT.

NOT A WORD.

THAT'S TERRIBLE. BUT STILL -- FOR US...

THIS IS SO EXCITING.

HERE SHE IS.

OH MY...

SHE HAS A LITTLE FIRE IN HER EYE. YOU CAN SEE IT.

SHE'S GOING TO BE A PISTOL... THIS ONE.

YES...

BEST PART OF MY JOB.

YOU HEAR THAT, LITTLE KAREN?

LOOKS LIKE YOU FINALLY FOUND A HOME.

SHE'S THE ONE.

KAREN.

THE END

DAREDEVIL/SPIDER-MAN 1

USUALLY, THESE THINGS BEGIN WITH A **BANG.** THIS ONE BEGINS WITH A **WHIMPER...**

IT AIN'T *FAIR* --!

SKRASH

HH-UHH... YOU LEAVE ME *ALONE,* YOU *HEAR* ME? -:HUFF:- I NEVER *DID* NUTHIN' --

-:HUFF:- THA'S RIGHT... YOU KEEP *OFFA* ME, MAN. YOU THINK I'M *SCARED* OF YOU? I AIN'T SCARED --!

WELL, WELL... KENNY FITZGERALD, AS I LIVE AND BREATHE.

NICE *SMELL* YOU'VE INVENTED THERE, FITZY.

HHH... STAY AWAY FROM ME! I NEVER *DID* NUTHIN', I SWEAR.

THWIP

YOU GOTTA *BELIEVE* ME -- -:WHUP:-

THIS JUST IN, KENNETH, MY MAN: IN CASE YOU'RE STILL CONFUSED ABOUT THE WAY THINGS WORK, I'M THE SPIDER AND YOU'RE THE FLY.

HHH... NOT *ANYMORE*, MISTER SPIDER-MAN, I SWEAR --

SO, SEE, THAT MEANS I'M *ONTO* YOU. DOESN'T TAKE A ROCKET SCIENTIST TO NOTICE THAT FOR A MAN SO SLOW ON THE UPTAKE, YOU MOVE A LOT *QUICKER* WHEN THE GOOD GUYS SHOW.

-- I'M JUST RUNNING INFORMATION THESE DAYS. -:HRKK:- YOU DON'T WANT ME... I'M SMALL POTATOES.

THEY *WANTED* ME TO DO STUFF, BUT I'M LIKE, "NO WAY, JOSE! NOT IN A MILLION YEARS."

I DON'T *DO* THAT NO MORE, I PROMISE... -:HRKK:- ALLS I GOT IS *INFORMATION* --

WELL, *GOOD*. MAYBE YOU CAN *INFORM* ME AS TO WHAT YOU'RE *TALKING* ABOUT --?

YOU KNOW WHAT *I* DON'T GET, FITZY? HOW COME EVERY TIME I RUN INTO YOU, FIRST THING OUT OF YOUR WEASELLY LITTLE MOUTH IS *"I NEVER DONE NUTHIN'!"*

SO THEN, WE'VE GOTTA GO TO ALL THIS EXTRA EFFORT JUST TO GET WHERE WE WERE GOING IN THE ***FIRST*** PLACE. YOU RUN, I CHASE. YOU FALL OVER, I CATCH YOU. THEN, ONE LITTLE JERK...

...AND VOILA! ONE ***BIG*** JERK!

I AIN'T SAYIN' A ***WORD*** --

THREE THINGS I LIKE ABOUT YOU, FITZ: ONE, YOU'RE, LIKE, THE PERENNIAL LAST-PLACE FINISHER IN THE *"CRIMINAL MASTERMIND OF THE YEAR"* COMPETITION.

TWO, YOU GOT A MOUTH THE SIZE OF THE HOLLAND TUNNEL...

AND THREE, YOU'RE AFRAID OF HEIGHTS.

NN-AAHH!

NN-NAHH!

I MAY BE BLIND, BUT THAT DOESN'T MEAN I DON'T KNOW HOW TO FEEL.

LATELY, I FEEL LIKE I'M THRASHING IN A BIG, SCUMMY OCEAN. AND ALL THE SHARKS ARE DOWN BELOW, WATCHING MY LEGS...

...AND BIDING THEIR TIME.

UNUSUAL SUSPECTS

PART ONE

DAREDEVIL SPIDER-MAN

I'M DAREDEVIL -- YEARS AGO, WHEN I LOST MY SIGHT, I WAS GIVEN THE ABILITY TO SENSE INSTEAD. I CAN SEE AND FEEL THINGS OTHER PEOPLE CAN'T. I CAN ALWAYS TELL WHEN THERE'S TROUBLE IN THE WATER.

I CAN TASTE IT ON THE AIR CURRENTS THAT DRIFT UPWARDS FROM HELL'S KITCHEN, MINGLED WITH THE REEK OF TOBACCO AND STALE FOOD, AND THE CHATTER OF TEN MILLION HEARTBEATS.

THESE LAST FEW DAYS, THE BOTTOM FEEDERS HAVE BEEN BUSY.

DOWN AT THE DOCKS, A DEAL GOES BAD -- AN UNKNOWN THIRD PARTY MAKES OFF UNOBSERVED WITH SOME EXPENSIVE MERCHANDISE. MY JOB IS SUDDENLY TWELVE WISEGUYS SIMPLER, AND THE GENE POOL IS A LITTLE CLEANER.

EXCEPT THE MERCHANDISE IN QUESTION BELONGS TO A CERTAIN MISTER WILSON FISK, WHICH... COMPLICATES THINGS.

BUT IT DOESN'T END THERE -- IT'S JUST THE BEGINNING OF A BAD WEEK.

NEXT NIGHT, SOMEONE ABRUPTLY TURNS OUT THE LIGHTS ON AN ILLEGAL CASINO OPERATION IN THE CITY. MORE DEAD VILLAINS, MORE POETIC JUSTICE.

AND HERE'S WHERE CHANCE AND INTENT BEGIN TO DIVERGE: A CERTAIN MISTER WILSON FISK IS KNOWN TO BE A FREQUENT PATRON OF THE RESTAURANT UPSTAIRS.

SAME NIGHT, A VERY EXPENSIVE AND UNDERINSURED WAREHOUSE GOES UP IN SMOKE. SAME M.O., BUT IT FIGURES TO BE AN ACCIDENT -- PERHAPS ANOTHER COINCIDENCE.

UNLESS YOU DON'T BELIEVE IN COINCIDENCES.

ROOMS TO LET

CASA BORLO STEAK HOUSE

I HEAR HIM THEN, BREATHING QUIETLY... MOST DEFINITELY MALE, WITH AN ATHLETE'S HEART RATE. AIR'S COLDER THAN NORMAL -- HE CAME IN THROUGH THE WINDOW.

BACK HOME, MY HEAD'S SWIMMING WORSE THAN WHEN I LEFT. THE WEEK HAS PRODUCED FAR MORE QUESTIONS THAN ANSWERS, IT SEEMS.

MOMENTARILY DISTRACTED, I ALMOST MISS THE SOUND OF THE HEARTBEAT COMING FROM INSIDE MY APARTMENT.

HIS SKIN IS WARM, ALMOST HOT... I SMELL HIS SWEAT, MIXED WITH A FAINT CHEMICAL ODOR THAT I'D RECOGNIZE ANYWHERE.

THE ECHOES OF MY FOOTSTEPS SUGGEST A WEIGHT DISPLACEMENT TO THE LEFT SIDE OF THE LVING ROOM. HE'S CALM... WAITING FOR ME.

HIS HEART RATE PICKS UP WHEN HE REALIZES I'M HOME, BUT NOT ENOUGH TO INDICATE THAT HE'S GOING TO POSE A THREAT. OF COURSE, I ALREADY KNEW ALL OF THIS --

-- BECAUSE MOST PEOPLE DON'T MAKE THEMSELVES COMFORTABLE HALFWAY UP A WALL...

POP QUIZ: WHY ARE GEESE AND LAWYERS EXACTLY ALIKE?

'CAUSE THEY CAN BOTH STICK THEIR BILL UP THEIR --

HEARD IT, ALREADY. COME ON IN, PETER. MAKE YOURSELF AT HOME.

I ALREADY DID -- LOVE THE NEW DIGS, BY THE WAY. I ***GOT*** SOMETHING YOU MIGHT BE INTERESTED IN:

I TAKE IT YOU HEARD SOME MORON STEPPED IN ON A PRETTY MAJOR DEAL DOWN AT THE DOCKS LAST WEEK, WALKED OFF WITH HALF A TON OF BLOW AND THE CASH TO PAY FOR IT, RIGHT?

GUY APPARENTLY DIDN'T REALIZE THE GOODS BELONGED TO A CERTAIN CRIMINAL VIP OF OUR ACQUAINTANCE WHOSE NAME RHYMES WITH *"KINGPIN."*

THOSE IN THE KNOW FIGURE IT'S JUST A MATTER OF TIME BEFORE HE SHOWS UP FOR A MIDNIGHT SWIM WEARING A SUIT OF ***ARMOR.***

SOMETHING LIKE THAT, YEAH...

RIGHT. WELL, NO ONE IN THEIR RIGHT MIND WOULD GO UP AGAINST FISK. BUT WHAT IF IT TURNED OUT THAT WHOEVER STOLE ALL THAT NOSE CANDY DIDN'T DO IT BY ***ACCIDENT?***

THAT IMPORT/ EXPORT WAREHOUSE SOMEBODY TORCHED THE NEXT NIGHT? RUN BY A COMPANY CALLED WATERWAY IMPORTS -- I CHECKED IT OUT... IT'S ALL ***LEGIT.***

EXCEPT FOR ONE SMALL DETAIL THAT DOESN'T SHOW UP ON THE POLICE REPORT: WATERWAY IMPORTS IS SOLELY OWNED AND OPERATED BY A COMPANY CALLED MANHATTAN MERCHANDISING, INCORPORATED.

AND GUESS WHICH HUMAN BUCKET OF LARD OWNS M.M.I.?

KINGPIN!

SOMEONE'S MAKING A PLAY ON FISK? I DOUBT IT... THEY'D HAVE TO BE *INSANE* --

YOU GOT ANY SODA? THIS STUFF GIVES ME GAS.

IT'S WATER -- KEEPS YOU HYDRATED, PETER...

YEAH, WELL... TALKING OF *"HYDRATED,"* I RAN INTO THAT LITTLE SWEAT STAIN KENNY FITZGERALD THIS AFTERNOON.

I'M FIGURING I'LL JUST PRESS HIM ABOUT THE WAREHOUSE THING, ONLY BEFORE I CAN SAY A WORD HE TURNS TAIL AND RUNS LIKE A RABBIT.

WE HAVE A CONVERSATION IN AN ALLEY, AND THE POOR LITTLE TOERAG JUST ABOUT FALLS OVER HIMSELF TRYING TO HIDE THE FACT THAT EVERYTHING'S CONNECTED AND HE'S INVOLVED.

PROBLEM IS, RIGHT AFTER HE STARTS TALKING HE GETS REAL SCARED AND CLAMS UP. WON'T SAY WHO THE NEW MUSCLE IN TOWN IS.

ALL I CAN GET OUT OF HIM AFTER THAT IS THE NAME OF THE GUY WHO TRIED TO RECRUIT HIM --

-- SOME SLIMEBALL NAMED JACK DANIEL ABBOTT. *KNOW* HIM?

NATURALLY. I'M DEFENDING JACK ABBOTT NEXT MONTH ON A PAROLE VIOLATION.

SO I *HEARD.* I NEED YOU TO DO ME A FAVOR -- GO PAY THIS GUY A VISIT, FIND OUT WHO'S PAYING HIS LEGAL BILLS, OKAY?

IN THE MEANTIME, I'M GOING TO DO SOME MORE ROOTING AROUND, SEE IF ANYONE KNOWS WHO'D BE CRAZY ENOUGH TO GO AFTER KINGPIN.

WHOEVER IT IS, THEY'RE EITHER VERY *SCARY* OR VERY *STUPID.*

I'LL CHECK BACK HERE ON FRIDAY NIGHT --

PETER... *WAIT!*

I DON'T GET IT...

I MEAN, WHY DON'T WE *DO* SOMETHIN' INSTEAD OF ALL THIS NICKEL AN' DIME STUFF?

GIMME ONE CHANCE, I COULD TAKE FISK OUT BY *MYSELF* --

HA HA! STILT MAN, I ADMIRE YOUR SPIRIT! YOU HAVE THE HEART OF A RETARIUS, MY SMALL FRIEND, BUT A TRUE WARRIOR KNOWS *PATIENCE.*

IF YOU EVER -- *EVER*-- CALL ME SMALL AGAIN, I'LL KILL YOU BEFORE YOU FINISH THE SENTENCE. YOU GOT ME, GLADIATOR?

THIS *"WILSON FISK"* -- HE MAY BE WEAK, BUT HE IS STILL THE EMPEROR OF CRIME, THE KING OF CORRUPTION. WE CAN'T STRIKE UNTIL WE'RE SURE IT IS THE RIGHT TIME.

I... I MEANT NO OFFENSE...

CHILDREN, MY CHILDREN... >NIKT<... NOW IS NOT THE TIME TO WAR AMONGST OURSELVES.

NOT IF WE ARE... >NIKT<... IF WE ARE TO TAKE THIS CITY AND *OWN* IT.

MY WONDERFUL BOYS... >NIKT< COPPERHEAD, YOURS IS A WELCOME RETURN TO THE FRAY -- SO MUCH EVIL IN THE WORLD, SO LITTLE TIME FOR YOU TO SUBDUE IT.

GLADIATOR, YOU HONOR YOUR CAESAR WITH THE PASSION AND FANATICISM OF A TRUE PSYCHOPATH. FOR THAT, I APPLAUD YOU..

AND YOU, STILT MAN... >NIKT<... HOW YOU'VE ***GROWN.*** MORE VICIOUS NOW, AND ALL THE BETTER FOR IT. WEAR YOUR ANGER WITH PRIDE, MY SON --

GET ***BENT.***

WE ARE KINDRED SPIRITS ALL, MY BOYS... >NIKT<... DISGRACED, DEFILED AND ***EXILED*** FROM THIS OPEN SEWER OF CARNALITY AND GREED WE CALL CIVILIZATION.

VICTIMS WE MAY BE, BUT TO THE VICTIMS GO THE ***SPOILS.*** FOR THIS CITY IS A SHIMMERING PRIZE OF INSANITY, AN ASYLUM OF UNTOLD RICHES...

"...AND SOON, VERY SOON, IT WILL BELONG TO THE ***INMATES.***"

I'VE KNOWN JACK ABBOTT ON AND OFF FOR YEARS -- THE "OFF" PART BEING HIS FREQUENT TIMES OF INCARCERATION, AND THE "ON" PART BEING TIME OFF FOR GOOD BEHAVIOR. HE'S A HABITUAL OFFENDER IN EVERY SENSE OF THE WORD.

BUT EVEN THOUGH JACK'S IN AND OUT LIKE A FOX IN A HENHOUSE, HE'S A PRETTY SHARP GUY -- THE KIND WHO'D BE A SALESMAN OR A LAWYER BUT FOR A COUPLE OF BAD BREAKS. AND, JUST FOR A CHANGE, HE'S INNOCENT...

AS A TERM OF YOUR PAROLE, JACK, YOU'RE REQUIRED TO AVOID CONTACT WITH KNOWN FELONS. WORD ON THE STREET IS, YOU'VE BEEN TRYING TO BRING BODIES ONBOARD FOR A NEW OUTFIT.

IF YOU LEVEL WITH ME ON THIS, I PROMISE I'LL SEE WHAT I CAN WORK OUT WITH THE D.A.

YOU ALWAYS BEEN ***STRAIGHT*** WITH ME, MISTER MURDOCK, AN' I APPRECIATE THAT. BUT YOU GOT NO IDEA WHAT YOU'RE ***ASKIN'.***

THAT OUTFIT YOU THINK YOU HEARD ABOUT... THEM BOYS ARE IN IT FOR ***KEEPS,*** AN' THEY GOT AN EYE ON EVERY CORNER. YOU LOOK UP IN THE AIR FOR 'EM, AND THEY'RE RIGHT UNDER YOUR ***FEET,*** KNOW WHAT I'M SAYIN'?

TAP TAP

WE'RE TALKIN' SOME MAJOR FINANCING, MISTER MURDOCK, AN' THE RESOLVE TO BACK IT UP. HELL, HALF THE GUARDS IN HERE ARE PROBABLY ON THEIR PAYROLL.

NOWADAYS, YOU DON'T KNOW IF YOU'RE COMIN' OR GOING. YOU DON'T KNOW IF YOU SHAKE YOUR FRIEND'S HAND, HE'LL STAB YOU IN THE ***BACK.***

BUT ONE THING I KNOW FOR SURE, MISTER MURDOCK -- YOU KEEP ASKIN' ME THAT QUESTION, AN' I ***ANSWER*** IT...

TAP

...I'M A ***DEAD*** MAN.

TAP

JACK'S TRYING TO TELL ME SOMETHING -- I CAN SENSE HIS HEART RACING AND HIS PUPILS DILATING EACH TIME HE GOES CLOSE TO IT... HE'S TRYING TO HIDE IT FROM THE GUARD AT THE DOOR.

TAP TAP TAP

IT'S A SUBTLE CHANGE IN VOCAL INFLECTION, AN OVERSTRESSED WORD... CLUES HIDDEN IN WHAT HE KEEPS SILENT AS MUCH AS WHAT HE SAYS...

SEVEN TAPS TOTAL -- HE'S DEFINITELY SENDING ME SOME KIND OF MESSAGE. I DECIDE TO PLAY ALONG WITH HIS GAME, HOPING TO PICK UP ON THE RULES AS WE GO ALONG...

COME ON, JACK... I CAN'T HELP YOU UNLESS YOU HELP ME ***FIRST.*** WHO'VE YOU BEEN WORKING FOR IN THE LAST MONTH?

YOU WANT ME TO BE SOME KINDA SNITCH, MISTER MURDOCK? NO WAY... THAT AIN'T MY ***MODUS OPERANDI!!***

I'M A REFORMED MAN THESE DAYS... A REGULAR LATTER-DAY SAINT, JUS' LIKE ***MARIE OSMOND...***

7 "M.O.?"

THAT'S ALL I *GOT* FOR YOU, MISTER MURDOCK. YOU HEAR WHAT I'M SAYIN'?

LOUD AND *CLEAR*, JACK.

I DON'T KNOW HOW MUCH I'M GOING TO BE ABLE TO HELP YOU. I'D *LIKE* TO, BUT YOU'VE NOT GIVEN ME A GREAT DEAL TO WORK WITH.

THAT DEPENDS ON HOW YOU *LOOK* AT IT, MISTER MURDOCK, IF YOU'LL PARDON THE EXPRESSION.

YOU JUST REMEMBER: I NEVER SAID A *WORD*, OKAY? ANYONE ASKS YOU, JACK ABBOTT DON'T SNITCH TO NO ONE.

DON'T WORRY, JACK. YOU NEVER SAID A WORD...

...DO YOU UNDERSTAND ME, GENTLEMEN? THIS IS *MY* CITY -- NO ONE PRESSES THE KINGPIN! *NO ONE!*

LIKE RATS IN A *CAGE.*

FWIP

PING

SECURITY
STRICTLY
NO
ADMITTANCE

191

"HEY! THIS AREA'S OFF-LIMITS --!"

FWIP

DANG
EXTREM
HIGH
VOLTA
DO NOT
ENTE
BZZZ

SIGHTLESS I MAY BE, GENTLEMEN, BUT MY OPERATIONS REQUIRE MORE THAN EYES. I EXPECT YOUR FULL ATTENTION TO THIS MATTER.

FWIP

HOWDY.

BZZZ
RRTTTT

FWIP

UH... MISTER FISK, SIR? WE GOT SOME KINDA PROBLEM --

CONTROL... YOU COPY? CONTROL..?

SIR, I CAN'T GET ANYONE DOWNSTAIRS. IT COULD BE MY RADIO'S BUSTED -- I'LL CHECK...

FWIP

YEAH... THIS IS TEN-THREE -- I HEAR YOU FINE. NOTHING HERE. OVER.

EMERGENCY EXIT

BLAM BLAM

POOR LITTLE RODENTS... TAKE AWAY THEIR EYES...

FWIP

FZZZAK

WHAT'S HAPPENED? WHAT *IS* IT?

GGGZZ

KRAKOOM

FWIP

YOU'D BETTER WAIT HERE, SIR. WE GOT SOME KINDA *SITUATION* GOIN' DOWN...

FWIP

...AND THEY CANNOT *SEE* --

OH, *CRAP.*

FWIP FWIP FWIP FWIP FWIP

FWIP FWIP

WHAT'S HAPPENING? SOMEONE... ANYONE?

FSSHHHKK

I DEMAND TO KNOW --

KA-BOOM

DAREDEVIL/SPIDER-MAN **2**

...REPORTS OF A MASSIVE EXPLOSION WHICH RIPPED THROUGH THE SIDE OF THE BUILDING IN THE EARLY HOURS OF TUESDAY MORNING...

...CAN YOU GIVE US ANY INDICATION AS TO HOW THE EXPLOSION OCCURRED..?

YES, IT WAS A GAS LEAK.

TOWER OF DOOM

...UNCONFIRMED REPORTS INDICATE A WIDESPREAD AREA OF DAMAGE TO THE SURROUNDING AREA...

OKAY, BOB... WE GOTTA ***FEED*** GOING. GOING LIVE IN FIFTEEN, FOURTEEN...

SIR, CAN YOU CONFIRM THE PRESENCE OF A BLACK HELICOPTER GUNSHIP THAT WAS REPORTEDLY SPOTTED IN THE VICINITY PRIOR TO THE EXPLOSION?

NO COMMENT.

ANY IDEA WHO'S GUNNING FOR YOU, MISTER FISK?

SIR! OVER HERE --!

MISTER FISK, WHAT DO YOU SAY TO THOSE WHO MUST SURELY HAVE ASSUMED YOU ***DEAD*** AFTER THE EXPLOSION?

GET USED TO DISAPPOINTMENTS.

.FISK

CNN NEWS

DAREDEVIL SPIDER-MAN

UNUSUAL SUSPECTS

PART TWO

THE STING

MISTER FISK... DAILY HERALD HERE. DO YOU THINK THIS INCIDENT CAN BE IN ANY WAY CONNECTED TO YOUR LINKS WITH ORGANIZED CRIME?

I *HAVE* NO LINKS TO ORGANIZED CRIME, SIR -- ONLY FALSE ALLEGATIONS OF SUCH.

IT HAS LONG BEEN MY BURDEN TO SUFFER THE SLANDEROUS AND *CHILDISH* ACCUSATIONS OF JEALOUS COMPETITORS. I AM A *BUSINESSMAN* -- NO MORE, NO LESS.

AS A MATTER OF FACT, I BELIEVE I OWN A RATHER SUBSTANTIAL STAKE IN *YOUR* VENERABLE PUBLICATION, MISTER ?

UH, *WATSON,* MISTER FISK. JOE WATSON.

SIR.

FISK

THE SAD TRUTH, MISTER WATSON, IS THAT MY ORGANIZATION NOW FACES SOME LIABILITY ISSUES ARISING FROM THE FALLOUT OF THE EXPLOSION.

IT SADDENS ME TO THINK THAT OTHERS WOULD WISH TO GAIN FINANCIALLY FROM THE MISERY AND SUFFERING INFLICTED BY THIS UNFORTUNATE ACCIDENT, BUT SUCH IS MY CROSS TO BEAR.

IT IS WITH THAT THOUGHT IN MIND, THEN, THAT I HAVE DECIDED TO RETAIN THE SERVICES OF ONE OF THE CITY'S FOREMOST LEGAL FIRMS...

...RETAIN THE SERVICES OF ONE OF THE CITY'S FOREMOST LEGAL FIRMS...

HE'S ALIVE!

I REMEMBER WHEN I FIRST BECAME A HERO.

SEEMS LIKE A LIFETIME AGO THAT I WAS STRUCK BY THE CANISTER CARRYING RADIOACTIVE WASTE WHICH TOOK AWAY MY SIGHT, AND LIBERATED MY SENSES.

BACK IN THOSE EARLY DAYS, I WAS YOUNG AND BRAVE AND OH SO NAIVE... THROWING MYSELF AROUND THE CITY LIKE A HUMAN HAND GRENADE, BLOWING UP THE BAD GUYS INDISCRIMINATELY.

I WAS A BLIND FOOL WHO THOUGHT HE WAS GOING TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

I MADE A LOT OF RIDICULOUS PROMISES -- TO THE CITY AND TO MYSELF -- THAT I'D RECTIFY INJUSTICE; THAT I'D RIGHT WRONGS, AND FIGHT CRIME, AND PUT AN END TO ALL THE KILLING.

BUT THE SAD TRUTH IS, THIS CITY WOULD RATHER KILL ITSELF.

SHOW-OFF.

LET'S TRY AND MAKE IT QUICK, PLEASE, PETER. I'VE HAD A LONG DAY.

TELL ME ABOUT IT. I'M UP TO THE PLATE FACING THE WRONG WAY, AND IT'S, LIKE, STRIKE *TWELVE.*

C'MON... LET'S GO CLEAR OUT THE COBWEBS --

I'VE NEVER SEEN ANYTHING *LIKE* IT, MATT. THIS LOON WHO'S GONE AFTER KINGPIN SEEMS TO HAVE A TALENT FOR KEEPING HIMSELF *VERY* FAR AWAY FROM THE SPOTLIGHT.

NO ONE'S SAYING A WORD -- IF THEY'RE NOT AFRAID OF THE NEW PLAYER, THEN THEY'RE SURE AS HELL AFRAID OF *FISK.* EVERYONE'S RUNNING AROUND LIKE IT'S THE END OF THE WORLD.

MAYBE IT *IS.* I HEARD THE WRECKAGE OF THE BUILDING WAS TIDIED UP BEFORE ANY TRACES OF EVIDENCE COULD BE FOUND.

WE HAVE NO PERP, NO MOTIVE, NO HARD EVIDENCE, AND A CITY FULL OF CROOKS ALL STRICKEN WITH COINCIDENTAL *AMNESIA.*

WELL, WHOEVER IT IS WHO BLEW UP THE CASTLE, FISK *SURVIVED.*

I GUESS THAT MEANS WE CAN GUARANTEE A FEW *MORE* FIREWORKS BEFORE THIS IS THROUGH.

I HAD A WORD WITH JACK DANIEL ABBOTT YESTERDAY --

OH, YEAH...?

YEAH. I JUST *KNOW* THE GUY WAS TRYING TO TELL ME SOMETHING ABOUT THE NEW MUSCLE...

...BUT I HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO WORK OUT WHAT IT *MEANS.* HE GAVE ME SOME KIND OF CLUE.

"SEVEN M.O." RING ANY BELLS?

NOT REALLY.

SAY, YOU EVER GET THE URGE TO *GOB* ON PEOPLE FROM UP HERE?

HMM...?

YOU KNOW... WHEN YOU'RE TEARING ALONG AFTER SOME SUPER-CROOK OR WHATEVER --

-- YOU EVER GET THE URGE TO JUST LEAN DOWN AND *HOCK* ONE AT SOME POOR, UNSUSPECTING PASSER-BY?

AN' THE GUY'S, LIKE, CRANING HIS NECK UPWARDS TO LOOK AT ALL THE EXCITEMENT, AN' IT CATCHES HIM RIGHT IN THE *EYE*...

GROW *UP,* PETER. WE'RE NOT *CHILDREN* ANYMORE.

I *NOTICED.* SO WHAT'S THE PLAN, STAN?

I DON'T *HAVE* ONE.

I SWEAR... SOMETIMES, I WONDER IF I'M NOT LOSING *FAITH* IN THIS WHOLE TORTUROUS PROCESS YOU AND I PUT OURSELVES THROUGH.

HOW *TYPICAL* THAT FISK HAD THE FORESIGHT TO INSTALL TEN FOOT PLEXIGLASS ON THE TOP FEW FLOORS OF HIS BUILDING --

-- THE MAN HAS MORE LIVES THAN TWENTY CATS. I CAN'T HELP THINKING HOW *UNFAIR* THAT IS --

I KNOW. BUT HEY... LEAVE IT TO A *LAWYER* TO FIND THE SILVER LINING IN THIS MORASS OF HUMAN MISERY, RIGHT? THE FAT BOY HIMSELF... WHAT'RE YOU GONNA DO WITH ALL THE *MONEY* --?

WHAT DO YOU *MEAN* -- WHAT MONEY?

YOU DIDN'T *KNOW?* YOU'RE KIDDING, RIGHT? I MEAN... TELL ME YOU'RE NOT KIDDING --

WHAT...? WHAT?

OH, BOY, ARE *YOU* IN FOR A SURPRISE --

...AND YOU MAY GIVE MY REGARDS TO THE WIFE OF OUR REPORTER FRIEND --

EXCUSE ME, THIS IS A *PRIVATE* ROOM, SIR... YOU CAN'T COME IN HERE!

MISTER *FISK!*

AH, GENTLEMEN... I BELIEVE MY ATTORNEY HAS ARRIVED --

I BELIEVE YOU'RE *MISTAKEN,* SIR. DUE TO AN UNFORTUNATE CONFLICT OF INTEREST, I'M AFRAID MY OFFICE WILL BE UNABLE TO TAKE YOUR CASE IN THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE.

OUR FIRM CURRENTLY REPRESENTS ONE OF THE PLAINTIFFS AGAINST YOU IN AN UNRELATED MATTER.

BUT I WOULD BE HAPPY TO REFER YOU TO A MORE... *APPROPRIATE* ATTORNEY.

GENTLEMEN... A MOMENT *ALONE,* IF YOU PLEASE... MISTER MURDOCK AND I HAVE PRIVATE MATTERS TO DISCUSS.

WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE *DOING* --?

I'M SEEING THE WORLD *DIFFERENTLY.* HADN'T YOU HEARD?

LET'S GET ONE THING STRAIGHT, YOU BIG SLUG -- THE END OF TIME WILL COME AND GO AND HELL WILL FREEZE OVER BEFORE I AGREE TO THIS, I WILL NEVER, *EVER* WORK ON YOUR BEHALF --

ON THE CONTRARY, MURDOCK... I DO BELIEVE YOU *WILL.*

WHAT MAKES YOU SO SURE?

I HAVEN'T HAD AS MUCH *PRACTICE* BEING *BLIND* AS YOU HAVE, BUT BEING LIKE THIS HAS GIVEN ME A NEW PERSPECTIVE --

-- A NEW LEASE ON LIFE, IF YOU WILL.

I FEEL AS THOUGH WE HAVE COME TO *UNDERSTAND* EACH OTHER, YOU AND I. YOU ARE A MAN OF *HONOR,* FOR WHICH I *PITY* YOU. I AM A *REALIST,* AND YOU *HATE* ME FOR IT.

THERE ARE NO SECRETS BETWEEN US ANYMORE. YOU ALREADY KNOW, OF COURSE, THAT I CANNOT AND *WILL* NOT ALLOW SOME SNOT-NOSED UPSTART TO STAKE ANY CLAIM TO MY ARENA OF OPERATIONS. AND *I,* OF COURSE, KNOW THAT YOU ARE *DAREDEVIL.*

THERE'S A NEW *SHARK* IN THE SEA, MURDOCK, AND HE'S BEEN TRYING TO TAKE A BITE OUT OF ME. I WANT *YOU* TO REEL HIM IN.

YOU'VE *GOT* TO BE KIDDING --

I NEVER JOKE ABOUT MATTERS OF BUSINESS, MATTHEW -- YOU KNOW THAT. SO, YOU'LL DON YOUR LITTLE RED MONKEY SUIT AND YOU'LL FIND OUR MUTUAL ANTAGONIST, AND YOU'LL SCARE HIM AWAY.

BECAUSE IF YOU *DON'T,* YOU CAN REST ASSURED THERE WILL BE A *WAR.* INNOCENTS WILL DIE AND BLOOD WILL BE SHED.

IF THAT HAPPENS, IT WILL BE *YOUR* FAULT.

YOU HAVE NO *CHOICE.*

NOW, TO BUSINESS: I'M INFORMED THAT TWO OLD FRIENDS, STILT MAN AND GLADIATOR, RECENTLY TOOK AN UNSCHEDULED VACATION FROM THE MAXIMUM SECURITY WING OF A FEDERAL MENTAL INSTITUTION, WHERE THEY HAVE BEEN INCARCERATED FOR THE PAST FEW YEARS.

I'M ALSO TOLD THEY'VE CHOSEN RATHER UNWISELY TO ALLY THEMSELVES WITH THE *"WRONG CROWD,"* SO TO SPEAK. I CAN'T IMAGINE WHY THEY'D AGREE TO SOMETHING SO ***UNHEALTHY,*** BUT THERE YOU HAVE IT.

THERE'S A THIRD MEMBER OF THE TEAM THAT ATTACKED MY BUILDING -- A CHARMING FELLOW WITH A PENCHANT FOR LEAVING PENNIES ON THE EYES OF HIS VICTIMS.

I WAS UNDER THE IMPRESSION YOU WERE PRESENT WHEN THE LUNATIC KNOWN AS COPPERHEAD WAS ELECTROCUTED SOME YEARS AGO, SO WE MAY ASSUME THIS IS AN IMPOSTER.

BUT THEY CANNOT HAVE ACTED ALONE -- ALL MY INSTINCTS TELL ME THEY DON'T HAVE THE ***RESOURCES.*** I WANT YOU TO FIND THE RINGLEADER, WHOEVER HE IS, AND BRING HIM DOWN.

YOU WILL USE YOUR LEGAL REPRESENTATION OF ME AS A COVER TO REPORT YOUR FINDINGS PERIODICALLY, AND I EXPECT THE JUDGE TO FIND IN MY ***FAVOR,*** IF YOU PLEASE --

ALL RIGHT... YOU ***WIN*** -- FOR THE MOMENT.

"SEVEN M.O." IT'S THE ONLY LEAD I HAVE -- DOES IT MEAN ANYTHING TO YOU?

I WOULD SAY IF A MAN WANTED TO SOLVE THAT ***PARTICULAR*** RIDDLE...

...IT WOULD DEPEND ON HOW HE ***LOOKED*** AT IT.

OWL

THE OWL...? IT *CAN'T* BE --

AH-HEHH... I'D LOVE TO SEE THE LOOK ON YOUR FACE RIGHT NOW, MURDOCK.

IT IF *IS* OWLSLEY THEN WE'RE BOTH IN FOR AN INTERESTING *TIME,* I THINK. SANE MEN CAN BE BRIBED, OR REASONED WITH, OR INTIMIDATED. LUNATICS ARE LESS *TRACTABLE.*

NOW GO... *PLAY.* DO WHATEVER IT IS YOU DO.

FIND THE OWL, FIND OUT WHERE HE IS, AND REMOVE HIM FROM MY AWARENESS.

DON'T EVER -- *EVER* -- ASSUME I'M AGREEING TO THIS TO *APPEASE* YOU, FISK.

FISK

IF IT MAKES YOU FEEL BETTER, THEN BY ALL MEANS YOU MAY MAKE THAT YOUR OWN PERSONAL MANTRA. IT MAKES NO DIFFERENCE TO ME -- I HAVE WHAT I NEED, AS I PREDICTED I WOULD.

AND YOU KNOW, IN A WAY, I'M SEEING A LONG-HELD PERSONAL DREAM FULFILLED THIS AFTERNOON...

"...I'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO OWN A *SUPER HERO.*"

MATT! OVER HERE!

H-HEY... WHAT, UH...

...HANG ON -- CATCH MY BREATH... HERE'S YOUR BRIEF-CASE...

...WHAT THE HELL D'YOU MEAN BY, *"WE'RE TAKING THE FISK CASE?"* THIS SOME KIND OF, UH... LAWYER JOKE..?

W44ST

WALK

ONE

NO JOKE, FOGGY. YOU NEVER HEARD THE OLD CLICHE ABOUT *"KEEPING YOUR FRIENDS CLOSE AND YOUR ENEMIES CLOSER?"*

MISTER FISK HAS RETAINED OUR SERVICES IN THE MATTER OF THE GAS MAIN EXPLOSION AT HIS TOWER. I NEED YOU TO DO ME A FAVOR AND GO MEET WITH HIS ACCOUNTING FIRM IN WISCONSIN --

WELL, SURE... BUT WHAT *FOR?*

ALL THE INFORMATION YOU NEED IS IN THE CASE. AH, *THERE* SHE IS --

FALLEN

GET UP

ST PRI

FOGGY NELSON, I DO BELIEVE YOU'VE MET NATASHA ROMANOV?

NATASHA, YOU REMEMBER FOGGY, DON'T YOU? NATASHA'S GOING TO BE HELPING US WITH THIS CASE, FOG.

URR...

HOW COULD I FORGET THE DASHING MISTER FOGGY NELSON.

YOU LOOK SO *SLIM* THESE DAYS, FOGGY -- AS SKINNY AS A RAKE.

JEEZ, MATT... WHAT'M I SUPPOSED TO DO?

SO, MISTER NELSON... WOULD YOU LIKE TO FILL ME *IN*?

YOU'LL FIGURE IT OUT. JUST LOOK THROUGH THE BRIEFCASE, FOGGY -- I'VE GIVEN YOU ALL THE INFORMATION YOU NEED. YOU CAN TELL NATASHA EVERYTHING.

CALL IT A *HUNCH.* IT WAS SOMETHING JACK ABBOTT SAID TO ME ABOUT LOOKING FOR THE BAD GUYS UP IN THE AIR WHEN IN REALITY, THEY'RE UNDER YOUR *FEET.*

COME ON.

THIS IS A *JOKE,* RIGHT?

IF THE OWL'S OUR MAN, AND HE HAS ENOUGH SAVVY TO KNOW PEOPLE ARE LOOKING FOR HIM, WHERE DO *YOU* THINK HE'D HIDE?

YOU COMING?

I GOT A BAD *FEELING* ABOUT THIS...

HE'S NOT THE ONLY ONE. I MAY NOT POSSESS SPIDER-MAN'S INTUITION, BUT I HAVE A GREAT SENSE OF SMELL. AND I SMELL DANGER.

THE SEWER'S AN OVERLOAD OF SENSORY INFORMATION TO SOMEONE LIKE ME -- TOO MUCH INFORMATION IS NO INFORMATION AT ALL.

UP AHEAD, I THINK I DETECT THE TELLTALE SOUNDS OF HEARTS BEATING EXCITEDLY. BUT IT'S MY IMAGINATION -- RATS, SCURRYING OVER KNOCKING PIPES.

LAUGHTER, LIKE TINKLING BELLS... THAT'S THE SOUND OF WATER DRIPPING INTO THE SEWER. A PLASTIC BAG RUSTLES, CAUGHT IN AN EDDY CURRENT OF NAUSEATING SLUDGE.

ONLY GOD KNOWS WHAT'S MAKING THAT FOUL SMELL. I FOCUS ON THE PIPES AND THE RATS. STRANGE... THERE'S ANOTHER SOUND BENEATH IT...

...THE SOUND OF BREATHING!

SPIDER-MAN...

LOOK OUT --!

BAM BAM

I TOLD YOU I HAD A BAD FEELING! DIDN'T I *TELL* YOU --?

AH... UHH...

BUT THERE'S STILL SOMETHING TERRIBLY **WRONG** HERE... AND IT'S NOT JUST THE BULLETS FLYING PAST OUR NOSES -- IT'S SOMETHING **ELSE.**

SO MUCH NOISE... EVERYTHING'S HAPPENING AT ONCE. THE SOURCE OF THE SHOTS ISN'T COMING ANY CLOSER... WHY AREN'T THEY ADVANCING?

THEY DON'T WANT US TO GET OUT... NO -- THEY WANT US IN HERE! IT'S SO LOUD. I SMELL...

...NITRO-GLYCERINE!

GET *DOWN!*

SKREE!

OHH, GOD... DD? YOU OKAY?

DAREDEVIL?

WELL, HOW ABOUT THAT, BOSS? WHAT'RE WE GONNA DO WITH *THESE* TWO LOSERS?

EAT.

DAREDEVIL/SPIDER-MAN 3

"QUICK, FOGGY -- TO THE *CRAPMOBILE!*"

THAT'S WHAT DRIVES ME ***NUTS,*** Y'KNOW? I MEAN, HOW COME EVERY TIME MATT DONS THE FAMOUS RED PAJAMAS TO FIGHT FOR JUSTICE, ***I*** END UP DOING ALL THE ACTUAL ***LEGWORK?***

HE NEVER TELLS ME WHAT I'M DOING UNTIL ***AFTER*** I'VE ALREADY DONE IT... AND HALF THE TIME IF I HAD KNOWN, I WOULDN'T HAVE ***WANTED*** TO DO IT IN THE ***FIRST*** PLACE.

HE'S THE ONE WITH THE BAT EARS AN' THE SUPER STRENGTH AN' THE AGILITY OF A FREAKIN' ***CAT.*** PLUS, HE'S GOT THAT WHOLE *"JEDI MASTER HYPERSENSE"* THING GOING ON -- SO HOW COME ***I'M*** THE ONE WALTZING THROUGH MONTANA ON A WILD GOOSE CHASE?

DON'T GET ME WRONG, NATASHA; IT'S ALWAYS A PLEASURE TO SPEND TIME WITH YOU. ***ESPECIALLY*** YOU. *UH,* THAT IS... ***YOU*** KNOW...

IT'S JUST ALL THIS ***SNOW*** --

I RATHER ***LIKE*** IT, FOGGY NELSON. IT REMINDS ME OF SUMMER IN SIBERIA.

YEAH, WELL... IT REMINDS ME OF WHY I NEED TO GET MY ***HEAD*** EXAMINED.

LET'S FACE IT -- WHILE I'M OUT HERE IN THE MIDDLE OF NOWHERE RISKING LIFE AND LIMB TO SAVE HUMANITY...

"...WHAT'S THE BETTING MY ESTEEMED PARTNER IS SOMEWHERE OUT ON THE TOWN HAVING THE TIME OF HIS *LIFE.*"

DAREDEVIL SPIDER-MAN
UNUSUAL SUSPECTS
PART THREE BAD BOYS DON'T CRY

CHECKOUT TIME, WEBBY. YOU C'N HAVE IT IN THE HEART OR THE HEAD, I AIN'T PICKY.

DAREDEVIL... WAKE UP, MAN! DD..?

EITHER WAY, IT'LL BLOW YOUR BONEY DUFF INTO A MILLION PIECES.

Y-YOU KILLED HIM! YOU FINALLY *DID IT...* YOU KILLED MY *BROTHER!*

YOUR BROTHER? WHAT IN GOD'S NAME ARE YOU *TALKIN'* ABOUT --?

THAT'S RIGHT! AND HE WAS A BETTER MAN THAN *FIFTY* OF YOU! WHY COULDN'T YOU HAVE STAYED IN PRISON WHERE YOU BELONGED?

SAY... HOW *DID* YOU GET OUT OF PRISON ANYWAY?

LET'S JUST SAY WE OWE A LOT TO... =NIKT= GROUP *THERAPY.*

OH, YEAH -- THAT PLACE WAS A REAL *MADHOUSE.* WE GOT OUT 'CAUSE WE WAS *SMART.*

"THEY SAID I GOT SOME KINDA ***NEE-PO-LIAN*** COMPLEX, OR SOMETHIN'. ORDERLIES'D POKE ME AROUND LIKE SOME KINDA ***LAB RAT...*** AN' I'D JUST TAKE IT, BIDING MY TIME TILL I COULD GET CLOSE TO ONE AN' DIG HIS ***EYES*** OUT.

"AND ONE DAY, WHILE I WAS IN THE P.T. CENTER, THAT'S WHEN I FEEL THIS ***PRESENCE*** BEHIND ME... BIG ENOUGH TO FILL THE WHOLE ROOM.

"THAT'S HOW I GOT INVOLVED WITH MISTER OWL. HE KNEW EVERYTHING ABOUT VILLAINY AND BLAGGARDRY AND STUFF. REAL GOOD ABOUT TEACHIN' ME THE ROPES, HE WAS.

"SAID I'D MAKE FINE LIEUTENANT MATERIAL, AN' ALL I HAD TO DO WAS LEARN HOW TO BE ***NASTIER.***

"THE WEEK AFTER, WE RECRUITED ***GLADIATOR...*** HE'D BEEN SENT IN ON DAY-RELEASE TO MINIMUM SECURITY --

"-- SO'S THEY COULD MONITOR HIS DELUSIONAL EPISODES, OR WHATEVER.

"ALL THE TIME, THE SCREWS HAD NO IDEA WHAT WE WAS COOKIN' UP.

"MORE AN' MORE, THEY'D LET US HANG OUT TOGETHER.

"WE DECIDED THERE AN' ***THEN*** WE WAS GONNA GET OUTTA THE ASYLUM AN' FORM THE BEST AN' MEANEST DAMN GANG IN THE CITY -- THE GANG OF ***THREE!***

"YOU KNOW... WE'D DO FANCY ***GIRLY*** STUFF LIKE COOKING AN' SEWING AN' GETTIN' IN TOUCH WITH YOUR FEELINGS, SEVEN DAYS A WEEK, DAWN TILL DUSK.

"ONE DAY, WE GOT ***BORED.***"

HE'S A REAL CRIMINAL GENIUS, IS MISTER OWL. HE WROTE THE BOOK ON *NEFARIOUS,* AN' DON'T YOU FORGET IT.

"GOT *CONNECTIONS,* TOO. AFTER WE GOT OUT, HE HOOKED US UP WITH OL' COPPERHEAD. WE CHANGED OUR NAME TO THE *'GANG OF FOUR.'* AIN'T *NO ONE* GONNA EVER FORGET THAT NAME WHEN WE'RE DONE..."

UH, THAT'S REAL INTERESTING. TELL ME THE BIT ABOUT THE EVIL *SEWING* GROUP AGAIN --

NO MORE TIME WASTING, FREAK! YOU GOT ANY LAST REQUESTS BEFORE I SPREAD YOUR GUTS OVER THE CITY?

KROOM!

YEAH... WHY DON'T YOU EAT *THIS?*

AHH... *UKK!*

HHH... NIKT STILT MAN, YOU MORON...

"YOU KILLED MY *BROTHER?"* D'YOU THINK YOU COULD LAY IT ON A LITTLE *THICKER* NEXT TIME?

PROBABLY.

KEEP OUT

NO TRESPASSING

WATERWAY IMPORTS
A SUBSIDIARY OF
FISK ENTERPRISES

KEEP OUT

HERR... I'VE NEVER BEEN SO... FREAKIN' *COLD...* IN MY ENTIRE *LIFE.* I THINK MY WEDDING TACKLE... IS GONNA SNAP OFF..!

YOU ARE FROSTBITTEN, FOGGY? IN RUSSIA, WE HAVE LEARNED THAT SHARED BODILY *WARMTH* IS THE KEY TO SURVIVING THE TREACHERIES OF WINTER.

IF YOUR EXTREMITIES ARE COLD, THEY SHOULD BE RUBBED, *VIGOROUSLY.* PERHAPS LATER, I WILL SHOW YOU HOW THIS IS DONE.

THIS IS THE PLACE -- IT'S SUPPOSED TO BE A LEGITIMATE ACCOUNTING FIRM, BUT WHERE ***FISK*** IS INVOLVED, I SEVERELY ***DOUBT*** IT. MATT WANTS ME TO GO OVER THEIR BOOKS, SEE WHAT I CAN DIG UP...

MM.

WELL, FOGGY... THIS IS WHERE WE ARE TO PART WAYS FOR A SHORT TIME. I WILL USE THE SIDE ENTRANCE WHILE YOU TAKE THE FRONT DOOR.

I TRUST YOU WILL BE ***BRAVE*** FOR ME WHILE I AM AWAY..?

YEP. FIGURES.

HAW! NICE SHOOTING, ROBIN HOOD! IS IT ME, OR ARE YOU FALLING A LITTLE SHORT?

DON'T YOU EVER, EVER CALL ME SHORT! YOU HEAR ME, BUG BOY?

ASIDE, STILT MAN...

...I WILL BRING THIS CUR DOWN TO HIS KNEES.

FOR "DEMENTIA!"

"OLE!" BY THE WAY...

SPIDER-MAN... IF YOU CAN BE SERIOUS FOR A MOMENT -- -- I THINK IT'D BE ADVANTAGEOUS IF WE TOOK THE FIGHT ABOVE GROUND.

FOR CAESAR! FOR HONOR!

DIE, SUCKERS!

BAKOOM

IF ANYONE ASKS, I'LL TELL 'EM YOU *HIT* US, OKAY?

GET THEM!

SEE IF YOU CAN HOLD THE OTHERS OFF! I'M GOING AFTER OWL!

NO, NO -- WHAT'VE I TOLD YOU ABOUT THE CORRECT WAY TO HIT SOMEONE?

DIDN'T YOU LEARN *ANYTHING* IN PRISON?

IT'S *"RIGHT CROSS FOLLOWED BY LEFT HOOK."*

HERE... LIKE *THIS!* SEE?

WHUF

OKAY, DUDE, YOU TRY IT AGAIN.

DON'T FORGET... LEAD WITH YOUR *CHIN* --

LOOK OUT!

A TEPID CURRENT OF AIR FORCES ITS WAY INTO MY LUNGS AS THE OWL HURLS HIMSELF TOWARDS ME, SEEMING TO HOVER FOR AN ETERNITY THANKS TO THE LIGHTNESS OF HIS HOLLOWED OUT BONES!

HHHARRRR..! LEAVE THE DEVIL MAN TO ME!

YOU ARE MINE NOW... DAREDEVIL. =NIKT= LONG HAVE I WAITED FOR THE CHANCE TO REACQUAINT MY TEETH WITH YOUR BONES --

=HUFF=

THIS IS NO LONGER A MAN, THIS IS A CREATURE OF THE NIGHT WITH ITS FETID BREATH AND ITS HOME-FASHIONED RAZOR CLAWS. OWLSLEY HAS BECOME A **BEAST** -- A TESTAMENT TO THE DETERMINATION OF A MADMAN.

NO! IT IS *YOU* WHO --

?

UHH!

IT WON'T HAPPEN, LEYLAND. =NNN...= YOU WON'T *WIN* --!

I DON'T KNOW WHETHER TO LAUGH OR *SHOOT.*

...AND, AS YOU CAN SEE, MISTER NELSON...

...ALL OF MY CLIENT'S FINANCIAL RECORDS ARE MOST CERTAINLY IN ORDER.

UM, YEAH. AND, UH... YOU HAVE THE LEDGERS CONTAINING THE CONSTRUCTION COMPANY'S FINANCIAL RECORDS... UM.

I NEED TO... *YOU* KNOW... LOOK AT THOSE TOO...

IS THERE SOMEONE IN HERE?

THWUK

HEY... YOU HEAR *THAT?*

I'M GONNA GO CHECK IT OUT.

IT WAS PROBABLY, UHM...

...DO YOU HAVE A *RAT* PROBLEM?

COME ON... COME TO NATASHA. GIVE ME SOMETHING I CAN USE...

HEY, WHAT THE --

WHO THE HELL ARE *YOU?*

STAY RIGHT WHERE YOU AA --

-AH!

HH... UHH...

SKREEE

WELL, AS YOU AMERICANS SAY...

..."BONGO!"

HA HA! THIS IS TOO PRICELESS! DON'T TAKE IT PERSONALLY, OWLSLEY...

...BUT I MAKE IT A POINT NEVER TO PLAY SECOND FIDDLE TO THIRD RATE CROOKS.

MY MEN WILL BE ISSUING YOU THE BOOBY PRIZE, OF COURSE --

I WILL MAKE YOU THE TAINT OF THIS CITY, YOU OBESE WRETCH.

YOUR CORPSE WILL ROT AND STINK *NIKT!* ON THE STREETS OF MANHATTAN. DO YOU HEAR ME?

YES, THAT'S VERY ***POETIC*** OF YOU.

WHAT NOW, FISK? I'VE FOUND YOUR RIVAL, AS PROMISED. LET ME TAKE HIM BACK TO THE ASYLUM... HE'S NO GOOD TO YOU.

PERSONALLY, I FIND SUCH REMONSTRATIONS TO BE THE TEDIOUS PURVIEW OF DESPERATE MEN.

HIS ELIMINATION WILL BE A USEFUL EXAMPLE TO OTHERS, DAREDEVIL. AND YOU AND YOUR FREAK COHORT, SPIDER-MAN, WILL MAKE WONDERFUL TROPHIES WHEN YOU ARE DEAD.

KILL THEM ***ALL.***

FISK!

BLAM

BLAM

BUDDA BUDDA BUDDA

OH, AND DAREDEVIL? IF YOU MANAGE TO *SURVIVE* THIS EPISODE -- AS YOU HAVE A NASTY HABIT OF DOING -- I SHALL EXPECT TO SEE YOU IN MY OFFICE, MONDAY MORNING, NINE A.M., SHARP!

DON'T BE LATE.

GATE 17

WHUMP

AIEEE

WELL, *THIS* WORKED OUT NICELY, DD. THANKS FOR THE INVITE.

..OWN!

OH, AH-HEHH... LOOK EVERYONE! DUDE GAVE ME A *NOOGIE*--

THWAK

BLAM BLAM BLAM BLAM BLAM

YEAH! COME AND GET IT, BOYS!

SPIDER-MAN! SOUNDS LIKE WE'VE GOT COMPANY!

WHAT? WHO--?

AW, NUTS.

NYPD

POLICE

DD, TRY TO KEEP THEM BUSY! I'LL GO ALERT THE TROOPS!

HEY! YOU'D BETTER BACK OFF FOR A WHILE, BOYS! THIS IS GETTING A BIT *HAIRY* RIGHT NOW --

POLICE

JEEZ...

NO! HOLD YOUR FIRE!

DUMB FREAKIN' ROOKIES...

...WAS IT SOMETHING I *SAID* --?

...I SAID "HOLD YOUR FIRE!"

HH-AHH!

WATCH THE BIRDIE, COPPERS!

WHOOOM

SOMETIMES, I WONDER IF I DON'T HAVE SOME KIND OF HYPERSENSORY INTUITION. AS I DRAW IN THE OWL'S STENCH, ALARM BELLS JANGLE MY NERVE ENDINGS. IT'S THE SOUND OF DEMONIC VIOLINS...

A LARGE SECTION OF NEW YORK'S FINEST HAS GONE UP IN FLAMES. I'M CAUGHT IN THE MIDDLE OF THE BIGGEST TURF WAR THE DOCKSIDE HAS SEEN IN YEARS... BUT SOMEHOW, IT ALL SEEMS **SECONDARY** TO WHAT'S REALLY GOING ON.

THERE'S AN **UNDERTOW** HERE THAT I CAN'T QUITE DESCRIBE... IT'S PULLING US DOWN SLOWLY, INEXORABLY...

IT'S COPPERHEAD -- ALL THIS TIME, HE'S HUNG BACK, WATCHING THE PROCEEDINGS. AS IF HE'S WAITING FOR SOMETHING TO HAPPEN.

I'D BEEN TOO CAUGHT UP IN THE ACTION TO NOTICE IT BEFORE...

...HE DOESN'T HAVE A **HEARTBEAT.**

COPPERHEAD! THIS IS YOUR DOING, *ISN'T* IT? OWLSLEY DIDN'T RECRUIT YOU... YOU RECRUITED ***HIM!***

YOU CANNOT HOPE TO STAND AGAINST ME, DAREDEVIL.

YOU WOULD BE INTERFERING WITH FORCES YOU CANNOT POSSIBLY UNDERSTAND.

THIS IS NO LONGER YOUR TIME... IT NOW BELONGS TO THOSE WHO HAVE RETURNED ME HERE.

THIS EXQUISITE CHAOS IS MY GIFT TO THEM.

WHO BROUGHT YOU BACK?

WHO HAS THE RESOURCES FOR SOMETHING LIKE THAT?

BY RIGHTS, YOU'RE NOT SUPPOSED TO ***BE*** HERE -- YOU WERE SUPPOSED TO BE ***DEAD*** --

I'M NOT *SURPRISED* YOU WOULD THINK THAT, DAREDEVIL. AFTER ALL...

...I AM DEAD.

DAREDEVIL/SPIDER-MAN **4**

YEAH... 'KAY, STUART. SURE. *UH-HUH.*

WELL, WHY'RE YOU ASKIN' ***ME...?***

I DON'T ***CARE*** WHAT WILLIAM SAYS -- I'M NOT TOUCHIN' THEM JAPANESE TECH STOCKS WITH A TEN FOOT POLE COVERED IN ***WOMBAT'S*** DUNG.

HEY... DON'T YOU EVEN ***THINK*** ABOUT PUTTIN' ME ON HOLD, BUDDY! I STILL GOT SOME ***INFLUENCE*** IN THIS TOWN, IN CASE YOU FORGOT. YEAH, THA'S RIGHT.

THA'S NOT THE POINT -- YOU ***KNOW*** I LIKE TO GAMBLE. THE POINT IS, YOU PUT ALL YER MONEY INTO THEM TECH STOCKS...

...YER GONNA CRASH AN' ***BURN.*** YOU'LL LOSE IT ***ALL,*** MAN!

S'NOT ***GAMBLING,*** STUART -- IT'S THROWING YOUR ***MONEY*** AWAY. WELL, THEN... YOU TELL WILLIAM --

-- HOLY #@%$!

UH, STUART...? I'M GONNA HAVE TO GET *BACK* TO YOU ON THAT --

WITH THESE HUMAN SOULS AND INNUMERABLE DAMNATIONS MORE DO I ***SUMMON*** THEE, MY LORD OF DARKNESS.

TO PROVE MY LOVE, I OFFER THESE EXECRABLE GIFTS OF BLOOD AND CHITTERLINGS AND VISCERA MOST FOUL -- DIPPED IN PUS AND RANCOR, FLAVORED WITH THE STENCH OF HUMAN PUSILLANIMITY.

COME... ***TASTE*** OF THIS REALM, MY BELOVED -- WHO IS CALLED LUCIFER AND AHRIMANES, ZAMIEL, BEELZEBUB, COROBAN AND A ***MILLION*** OTHER SECRET NAMES.

YOUR WAY SHALL BE PAVED WITH THE CRIES OF THE DYING AND THE HEART-ECHOES OF THE DEAD, WHO GIVE FREELY OF THEIR BLOOD IN THE NAME OF AVARICE.

THIS SHALL BE YOUR NEW CALCUTTA, YOUR EMBASSY TO THIS WORLD -- A STAGING POST INTO A THOUSAND TOMORROWS OF HATRED. A BEACHHEAD INTO THE FERTILE SOULGROUND OF MANKIND.

I GIVE YOU... NEW PERDITION!

DAREDEVIL / SPIDER-MAN

UNUSUAL SUSPECTS

PART FOUR THINGS GET WORSE

NOTHING! DO YOU HEAR ME, FOGGY NELSON?

NOTHING!

OHH... AND I FELT CERTAIN THERE WOULD BE INCRIMINATING EVIDENCE IN THE FAT MAN'S SAFES.

BUT I FOUND ONLY COINS AND JEWELS AND PICTURES OF HIS UGLY CAT.

NOTHING OF ANY USE TO US... NOT A PICKLE --

IT'S "NOT A SAUSAGE," ACTUALLY, AND AS A MATTER OF FACT, I THINK THERE IS SOMETHING WE CAN USE --

WHAT? WHAT DID YOU SAY?

I SAID IT'S "SAUSAGE," NOT "PICKLE --"

NO, NO... THE OTHER THING. WHAT WAS THE OTHER THING?

I SAID, "AS A MATTER OF FACT, THERE IS SOMETHING WE CAN USE."

...AND, AS WE REPORTED TO YOU EARLIER LIVE HERE ON WXNK...

"...A THREE-BLOCK STRETCH JUST SOUTHEAST OF THE VENTURI DOCKSIDE APARTMENTS FINDS ITSELF EARLY THIS MORNING ENCASED IN AN IMPENETRABLE COSMIC ENERGY BUBBLE.

"THE SUDDEN APPEARANCE OF THIS MYSTERIOUS STRUCTURE IS CAUSING MAJOR DISRUPTIONS IN THE EARLY MORNING COMMUTE, WITH TRAFFIC NOW BACKED UP FOR AT LEAST TWENTY BLOCKS IN ALL DIRECTIONS.

"IF YOU'RE HEADING DOWN TO THE DOCKSIDE BUSINESS DISTRICT, BETTER START PLANNING AN ALTERNATE ROUTE, FOLKS! NOW, OVER TO DONNY O'TOOLE, LIVE AT THE SCENE."

"MARTHA, I'M DOWN HERE JUST OUTSIDE THE GIANT DOME, WHICH RISES SOME THREE THOUSAND FEET ABOVE ME TO THE WEST. IT'S AN ASTONISHING SIGHT, AND A SITUATION, QUITE FRANKLY, THAT'S CAUGHT SOME OF NEW YORK'S FINEST MINDS COMPLETELY BY SURPRISE.

"IN AN EARLIER STATEMENT, REED RICHARDS OF THE SUPER HERO GROUP, THE FANTASTIC FOUR, REVEALED THERE HAD BEEN **NO** CONTACT WITH MUTANT DEVIANTS, ALIEN LIFEFORMS OR ANY OTHER PARTY CLAIMING RESPONSIBILITY.

"EXPERTS CONTINUE TO MONITOR THE SITUATION, WHILE ALL ATTEMPTS TO REACH THOSE TRAPPED INSIDE HAVE PROVEN FRUITLESS SO FAR. AS TO THEIR FATE, ONLY TIME WILL TELL --"

UURH!

LOVELY CLASS OF FRUITCAKE YOU HANG WITH, D. MIND TELLING ME WHO WE'RE FIGHTING *NOW?*

TCH... ZOMBIES. WELL, THERE GOES THE NEIGHBORHOOD, IF YOU ASK ME.

BEFORE YOU KNOW IT, THEY'LL BE ROUND BORROWING CUPS OF BLOOD AND LEAVING BODY PARTS ALL OVER THE STREETS --

GGUHH...

BLAM BLAM

LOOK OUT!

THWP

NO PROBLEM... I GOT IT.

YEAH! MAYBE YOU'LL THINK TWICE BEFORE YOU CALL SOMEONE A "GGUHH" IN THE FUTURE.

THAT'S RIGHT, I'M TALKING TO *YOU*, DEAD BOY --

SPIDER-MAN...

REST EASY, FATHER. WE'RE HERE NOW --

...UHH... YOU ARE OF THE *FAITH*... AREN'T YOU? I HEAR IT IN YOUR *VOICE*...

LISTEN TO ME... THE DEVIL WALKS THE EARTH...

...YOU'LL FACE YOUR *DAMNATION*... BEFORE THE DAY IS *OVER*... MY SON...

PLEASE, FATHER... TRY NOT TO SAY ANYMORE --

...YOU MUST ***LISTEN*** TO ME... THE KEY TO THIS DAMNATION...

ROMANS... TWELVE...

...TWENTY-ONE...

WE'VE GOT TO GET TO COPPERHEAD -- HE'S THE ***SOURCE*** OF ALL THIS.

ROMANS, *HUH?*

NOW, IF I REMEMBER CORRECTLY... IS THAT THE BIT WITH THE SONS OF ISRAEL AND THE TWELVE ***KANGAROOS*** --?

A MAN OF THE CLOTH DIED HERE, PETER. IS THAT FUNNY TO YOU?

IS IT?

"IS THAT FUNNY TO YOU?" JUST WHO THE HELL D'YOU THINK YOU ***ARE*** ANYWAY?

HEY, HERE'S A NOVEL THOUGHT, DAREDEVIL: WHY DON'T YOU BACK ***OFF?***

I DIDN'T MEAN --

YES, YOU *DID!* WHAT YOU MEANT WAS, "*STOP GOOFING OFF AND DO IT **MY** WAY!*" WELL, GUESS WHAT? I'M NOT ***YOU!***

YOU THINK JUST BECAUSE WE ALL WAKE UP ON THE WRONG SIDE OF ***YOUR*** MORAL VISION NONE OF US COULD POSSIBLY SUFFER AS MUCH AS YOU DO?

WAIT, I --

I'M NOT ***FINISHED!*** I KID AROUND THROUGH ALL THIS LUNACY BECAUSE THAT'S ***MY*** WAY OF DEALING WITH IT, OKAY?

THE ALTERNATIVE IS TO SIT AROUND AT HOME AND MOPE ABOUT HOW MANY PEOPLE DIED IN THE CITY TODAY, AND WHO WENT WITHOUT FOOD, AND WHAT I COULD'VE DONE TO MAKE IT ***DIFFERENT.***

I'VE HAD ENOUGH OF THE "*ZEN WARRIOR FROM HELL'S KITCHEN*" FOR ***THIS*** LIFETIME.

SO, INSTEAD OF DRAGGING ***ME DOWN,*** HOW ABOUT YOU LIGHTEN ***UP?***

JUDGING BY ALL THE MYSTICAL ENERGY CRACKLY STUFF, I'D SAY OUR PROBLEM'S ABOUT TWO BLOCKS FROM HERE.

WHAT SAY WE DEAL WITH ***THAT*** CRISIS BEFORE YOU TAKE TIME OUT TO SET ME ON THE PATH TO ENLIGHTENMENT, *HUH?*

MAYBE HE'S RIGHT -- MAYBE I AM LETTING MY PERSONAL STANDARDS OBSCURE THE TRUE GOAL. PROBLEM IS, EVEN I HAVEN'T LAPSED SO FAR I DON'T UNDERSTAND THE DYING PRIEST'S REFERENCE. I KNOW THAT PASSAGE WELL.

AS WE SKIRT THE ADJACENT ROOFTOP, I BECOME AWARE OF SOMETHING **ROTTEN** PERVADING THE ATMOSPHERE... IT'S LIKE NOTHING I'VE SENSED BEFORE.

IT'S DEATH AND SICKNESS... AND SUCH A TERRIBLE MELANCHOLY I FEEL LIKE I WANT TO **CRY**. EVEN IN THIS NIGHTMARE LANDSCAPE, I RECOGNIZE WHERE COPPERHEAD HAS LED US -- THE **MISSION**.

THIS IS WHERE KAREN DIED.

WELL, ISN'T THIS FUN?

Y'KNOW, I'M SECRETLY HOPING I FELL INTO A VAT OF GLUE...

...OR ACCIDENTALLY ATE ONE OF THOSE FUNNY RED AND WHITE MUSHROOMS THAT GROW IN COWPATS, OR SOMETHING.

THE CLINTON MISSION SHELTER

WITH ANY LUCK, I'LL WAKE UP IN POUGHKEEPSIE IN A FEW HOURS WITH A NASTY HEADACHE AND A BOTTLE OF MAD DOG TUCKED UNDER MY ARM --

WELCOME, FRIENDS.

DO YOU LIKE WHAT I'VE DONE WITH THE PLACE SO FAR?

OH, I WOULDN'T WORRY ABOUT THESE TWO. YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO HELP THEM NOW-- THEY'RE TOO FAR GONE.

THEY'RE GETTING A TASTE OF *TOMORROW*, SO TO SPEAK.

NONO NONONO NONO...

NONO NONONO NONO...

AAH! AAH!

AAH! AAH!

WHAT HAPPENED TO THEM?

I DON'T KNOW.

THEIR HEARTRATES ARE GOING LIKE JACKHAMMERS, AND THEIR BODY TEMPERATURES ARE THROUGH THE ROOF.

IT MIGHT BE SOME KIND OF *HALLUCINATION.*

IT MIGHT BE *REAL*, DAREDEVIL -- I THOUGHT ALL YOU STUBBORN LITTLE CATHOLICS BELIEVED IN THAT SORT OF THING.

I DIDN'T, OF COURSE...

...NOT UNTIL YOU *MURDERED* ME...

...AND I WAS MADE TO DISCOVER THE REALITY OF HELL ALL FOR MYSELF.

YEAH, WELL... WHATEVER.

DD, YOU KEEP OLD *SKELETOR* THERE BUSY FOR A MINUTE WHILE I TAKE CARE OF THESE TWO.

C'MON GUYS... I GOT Y --

-AAHHHH!

THIS IS TO BE MY *GIFT*, DAREDEVIL.

THESE HUMAN HUSKS OF MISERY, AVARICE AND AMBITION --

-- AN OFFERING TO MY LORD OF DARKNESS, IN RETURN FOR MY *REDEMPTION.*

YOU SEE, I'VE *BEEN* TO HELL, AND FOUND THAT ITS LORD DOESN'T *WANT* MY BLACK HEART -- HE HAS COUNTLESS BILLIONS OF THOSE.

HE WANTS *PURE* SOULS.

ONLY A WORTHY OFFERING WILL CLOSE THE PORTAL I HAVE OPENED FOR HIM.

I WANT TO THANK *YOU* ESPECIALLY, DAREDEVIL -- FOR HAD YOU NOT MURDERED ME, I WOULD NEVER HAVE BEEN IN A POSITION TO SEE ETERNITY AND *ESCAPE* IT.

TO USE AN OWL TO BAIT A TRAP TO CATCH A SPIDER TO GET TO *YOU.* THAT'S VERY...

...WAIT... WHAT ARE YOU *DOING?*

GIVING YOU WHAT YOU *WANT.*

WELL, THEN... THE CAT'S OUT OF THE BAG. I HOPE YOU APPRECIATE THE DEPRAVITY OF MY REVENGE, DAREDEVIL. YOU SENT, ME TO HELL... AND I'M GOING TO RETURN THE FAVOR.

GO AHEAD... PULL THE TRIGGER.

TELL ME: AS THE BULLET OPENS UP YOUR SKULL, WILL YOU HAVE TIME ENOUGH TIME TO CONSIDER THE ***RAMIFICATIONS,*** POOR LITTLE LOST SHEEP?

DOES A SUICIDE THAT SAVES OTHERS COUNT AS A SUICIDE? WHAT IF YOUR GOD ***ABANDONS*** YOU?

THAT'S WHAT HAPPENS TO GOOD LITTLE CATHOLICS WHO TAKE THEIR OWN LIVES. THERE'S NO FORGIVENESS IN GOD'S HEART FOR THE MORTAL SIN YOU'RE ABOUT TO COMMIT.

THAT COKED-UP LITTLE JEZEBEL YOU LOVED SO WELL -- IF YOU PULL THE TRIGGER, WILL YOU EVER SEE HER AGAIN IN ALL ETERNITY?

...KAREN...

WHAK

NOW I UNDERSTAND :SNKKT: I HAVE BEEN A BLIND FOOL.

I KNOW YOU, DEVIL -- YOU WERE INSIDE MY MIND ALL ALONG.

IF YOU MUST HAVE A SOUL :SNKKT: YOU SHALL HAVE MINE!

OWL... STOP! YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE DOING --

ON THE CONTRARY, DAREDEVIL... :HUFF:...

...FOR THE FIRST TIME IN YEARS... I FINALLY DO...!

OWLSLEY!

HANG ON, LELAND... I'VE GOT YOU...

...GIVE ME YOUR OTHER *HAND* --!

SLASH

IT'S TOO LATE FOR ME, DAREDEVIL... I HAVE ALREADY ARRIVED AT MY DESTINATION...

...HAVE NO REGRETS... THERE'S NOTHING YOU COULD HAVE *DONE*...

AAH!

...I WANT YOU TO KNOW, I DID NOT MEAN TO DO THE THINGS I DID...

...THINK *WELL* OF ME...

...YOU *HELPED* ME, AND I BECAME *LOST*...

...BUT I WAS A *KIND* MAN ONCE...

DO NOT BE OVERCOME BY EVIL, BUT OVERCOME EVIL WITH GOOD. -- ROMANS 12:21

YOU'RE *LATE.*

I'M NOT HERE FOR YOUR *AMUSEMENT,* FISK --

WHY NOT, MISTER MURDOCK? YOU DO SUCH A GOOD *JOB* OF IT, AFTER ALL. BUT, TO *BUSINESS...*

I'VE HAD RATHER AN UNUSUAL MORNING TRYING TO PERSUADE THE AUTHORITIES THAT THIS RECENT DISTURBANCE --

-- WAS ACTUALLY AN ELABORATE MOVIE SET FOR A MOTION PICTURE BEING PRODUCED BY FISK ENTERPRISES.

NEW YORK IS GOING TO HELL ANYWAY. JUST LOOK AT WHO'S REPRESENTING US IN THE SENATE.

WELL, AS YOU CAN IMAGINE, THE MAYOR AND HIS CRONIES ARE UP IN ARMS ABOUT IT. SOMETHING ABOUT AUTHORIZATION AND PERFORMANCE LICENSES AND SO ON.

AS MY CURRENT LEGAL REPRESENTATIVE, I CAN'T *SAY* HOW MUCH PLEASURE IT GIVES ME THAT YOU'LL BE SORTING THIS ALL *OUT* FOR ME --

ACTUALLY, NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT -- ABOUT THE WHOLE LEGAL REPRESENTATION THING...

...I'M AFRAID WE HAVE A SMALL *DILEMMA* ON OUR HANDS.

UM... GOOD MORNING, MISTER FISK.

WHAT'S THIS? I DON'T HAVE TIME TO PLAY *GAMES* --

NO GAMES, MISTER FISK. YOU REMEMBER MY PARTNER, MISTER NELSON, DON'T YOU? FOGGY, WILL YOU DO THE HONORS.

UM. WELL. I'M SURE YOU'RE AWARE, MISTER FISK, THAT AS YOUR ATTORNEYS...

...WE CANNOT PROCEED IN REPRESENTING YOU IN THE EVENT THAT ANY WRONGDOING OR ILLEGAL PROCEDURES ON YOUR PART COME TO OUR ATTENTION.

UM. AS YOU MAY KNOW, I RECENTLY VISITED YOUR ACCOUNTING FIRM IN WISCONSIN, AND EXAMINED CERTAIN, *UM...* RECORDS AND LEDGERS.

I'M OBLIGED TO INFORM YOU, MISTER FISK, THAT NEW YORK CITY BUILDING CODES CALLED FOR A COMPLETE BAN ON THE USE OF LEAD-BASED PAINT OVER FORTY YEARS AGO.

BUT IN FACT, *UM...* THE CONTRACTORS YOU PAID TO REPAINT THE INTERIORS LAST FEBRUARY USED SUCH SURPLUS MATERIALS WITH YOUR FULL KNOWLEDGE. YOU'RE LOOKING AT SOME PRETTY HAIRY LAWSUITS IF THAT EVER COMES OUT, SIR.

*LEAD PAINT? **LEAD PAINT?*** ARE YOU TRYING TO ***BLACKMAIL*** ME --?

WELL, OF COURSE WE ARE. WE ARE ***LAWYERS,*** FOR GOD'S SAKE.

WELCOME TO LITIGIOUS AMERICA, MISTER FISK -- THERE'S SOMEONE WAITING FOR A WINDFALL ON EVERY CORNER. AND, OF COURSE, I WOULD BE DUTY BOUND TO ***REPORT*** THIS INDISCRETION IF I WERE TO CONTINUE AS YOUR LEGAL REPRESENTATIVE.

YOU KNOW WHAT THIS CITY WOULD DO TO YOU IF THEY FOUND OUT YOU'D SO RECKLESSLY JEOPARDIZED THE HEALTH OF YOUR EMPLOYEES LIKE THIS?

WELL, IT WOULDN'T BE ***PRETTY,*** I'D IMAGINE.

OUR BILL WILL BE IN THE ***MAIL,*** MISTER FISK. DO CALL US AGAIN WHEN YOU NEED OUR SERVICES, WON'T YOU?

:AH-HUHH:... OH, CHRIST... I THINK I'M GOING TO HAVE A HEART ATTACK.

I THINK THAT'S THE MOST SURREAL THING I'VE EVER DONE.

HEY, THERE'S ALWAYS *SOMETHING* AMISS WHEN THE LAWYERS ARE THE *GOOD* GUYS. WAY TO KEEP IT TOGETHER IN THERE, FOG -- I'M *PROUD* OF YOU.

SURE. HEY, LISTEN... NOW THAT THIS IS ALL OVER, I WAS WONDERING SOMETHING.

UH... IT'S ABOUT *NATASHA.* SEE, SHE AN' I WERE HITTING IT OFF PRETTY GOOD WHILE WE WERE OUT IN THE GREAT WHITE NORTH, Y'KNOW?

UM. SO, ANYWAY... I KNOW YOU GUYS USED TO BE AN *ITEM* AN' ALL, BUT I WAS WONDERING --

IT'S *FINE,* FOGGY. GO AHEAD AND ASK HER OUT. NO HARD FEELINGS. REALLY.

BUT JUST REMEMBER: SHE'S NOT CALLED THE BLACK WIDOW FOR *NOTHING...*

NICE NIGHT.

YUP.

WHAT *HAPPENED* TO HIM, DO YOU THINK?

THE OWL? I'M NOT SURE, PETER.

IT'S HARD TO BELIEVE THAT ANY OF THIS ACTUALLY *HAPPENED*, TO BE PERFECTLY HONEST. I HALF EXPECT TO TURN THE CORNER AND FIND *MYSTERIO* STARING ME IN THE FACE.

EXCEPT MYSTERIO'S DEAD -- THEY'RE *ALL* SUPPOSED TO BE DEAD. THE LAST TIME I SAW COPPERHEAD, HE WAS LYING IN A HOLE IN THE GROUND AFTER HAVING TEN TRILLION VOLTS SENT THROUGH HIM.

HOW HE GRADUATED FROM CORPSE TO SATAN'S RIGHT HAND MAN IS BEYOND MY COMPREHENSION.

YEAH. THEY DO GROW UP SO *QUICK*, DON'T THEY?

PETER, I WANT TO THANK YOU FOR ALL YOUR HELP.

IT'S BEEN AN *EXPERIENCE*, AS ALWAYS. YOU WERE VERY BRAVE.

I'LL TAKE THAT AS A *COMPLIMENT*.

WE MAKE A PRETTY GOOD TEAM, DON'T WE?

LISTEN... I WANT YOU TO KNOW I DIDN'T *MEAN* IT -- ABOUT THAT WHOLE HELL'S KITCHEN ZEN WARRIOR THING, I WAS JUST LETTIN' OFF STEAM. I SHOULDN'T HAVE GONE OFF ON YOU LIKE THAT.

I FEEL LIKE A REAL JERK.

IT'S OKAY... YOU DON'T HAVE TO APOLOGIZE.

YOU AND I ARE JUST VERY *DIFFERENT*, I GUESS... I'M NOT MUCH FOR *HUMOR*.

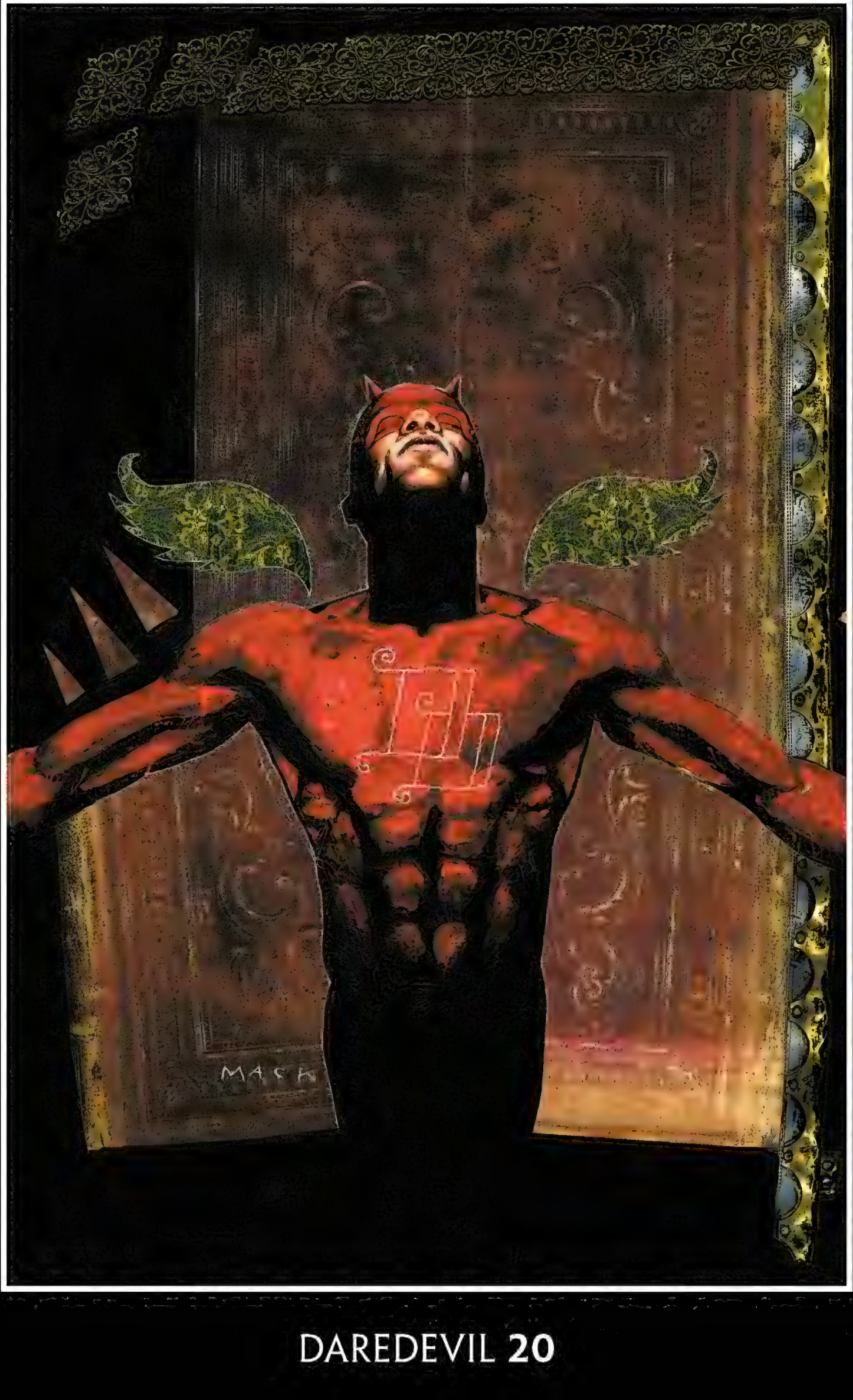
I GUESS.

YOU TAKE *CARE* OF YOURSELF, OKAY?

I WILL.

KICK ME!

THE END



DAREDEVIL **20**

THE JURY MOVES INTO ITS SECOND HOUR OF DELIBERATIONS ON THE BRAXTON CASE, AS THE CITY ANXIOUSLY AWAITS THE VERDICT.

A LOT OF PEOPLE ARE WONDERING IF THIS CASE WARRANTS THE MEDIA ATTENTION IT'S BEEN GENERATING.

WELL, IF **CLAUDE UNGER'S** INVOLVED, IT GENERATES MEDIA ATTENTION.

AS EVERYONE KNOWS, FLAMBOYANT ATTORNEY CLAUDE UNGER BLEW INTO TOWN LIKE A HURRICANE LAST YEAR, AND HAS YET TO LOSE A CASE...

FILE FOOTAGE: CLAUDE UNGER

WILL THE BLIND DEFENSE ATTORNEY MATT MURDOCK ALSO BE BLOWN AWAY BY HIS TACTICS?

NO COMMENT.

TO RECAP: UNGER'S CLIENT, **LLOYD BRAXTON**, CLAIMS RACIAL MOTIVATION IN HIS WRONGFUL TERMINATION SUIT--

FILE FOOTAGE: MATT MURDOCK

--AND IS ASKING FOR **$50M IN DAMAGES** FROM HIS EX-EMPLOYER, MR. ROSEN OF ROSEN OFFICE SUPPLY.

RACISM MUST BE THWARTED IN ALL ITS FORMS AND THAT'S WHAT WE'RE HERE TO DO.

WE WILL PROVE Mr. BRAXTON'S TERMINATION WAS ENTIRELY JUSTIFIED.

UNGER'S TAKEN A NUISANCE CASE, PLAYED THE RACE CARD AND TURNED IT INTO A GIANT MEDIA CIRCUS.

OH, FOR THE GOOD OLD DAYS WHEN NO ONE PAID ATTENTION TO LAWYERS.

Click

GOTTA CLEAR MY HEAD... WITH A JAUNT AROUND TOWN AS...

DAREDEVIL

STAN LEE PRESENTS

PLAYING TO THE CAMERA

PART ONE

THE LAST THING I NEED IS A CAMERA CREW CAMPED IN FRONT OF THE NELSON AND MURDOCK LAW OFFICE.

WHO WOULD HAVE THOUGHT IT'D BE A BLESSING TO HAVE THE IRAQI CONSULATE DOWN THE STREET. THANKS TO THE ALTERCATION THEIR DIPLOMAT HAD WITH THAT CAMERA CREW LAST MONTH, THE MEDIA PEOPLE PRETTY MUCH STAY OFF OF OUR BLOCK.

LIVING UPSTAIRS FROM YOUR WORKPLACE MAKES THE COMMUTE A LOT EASIER, BUT IT CAN HAVE DRAWBACKS FOR ONE'S SECRET IDENTITY.

I MUST SAY, FOGGY HAS WORKED MIRACLES THESE PAST WEEKS -- GETTING THE LAW OFFICE BACK IN SHAPE, HIRING PERSONNEL, AND TENDING TO ALL THOSE DETAILS THAT I CAN'T STAND.

AND DESPITE THE MEDIA ATTENTION ON THIS CASE, IT DOES FEEL GOOD TO BE FUNCTIONING AS AN ATTORNEY AGAIN.

BRAAAAG

UH-OH. THAT ALARM IS COMING FROM A BANK. SOUNDS LIKE AN UNAUTHORIZED WITHDRAWAL...

IF YOU HAVE TO SHOOT, SHOOT TO KILL!

BAD IDEA.

HAVEN'T YOU HEARD? TRENCHCOATS ARE *PASSÉ*.

TRY ONLINE BANKING NEXT TIME -- IT'S A LOT LESS PAINFUL.

I SURRENDER!

JUST MAKING SURE.

HEY, THAT'S MY CAR! YOU MESSED UP MY CAR!

BEEP BEEP BEEP

THAT'S THE CALL. THE JURY HAS A VERDICT. MATT MURDOCK'S GOTTA GET TO COURT.

HEY! YOU IN THE SPANDEX!

WHO'S GONNA PAY FOR MY CAR?

GENTLEMEN, I'LL LEAVE THIS IN YOUR CAPABLE HANDS.

AFTER ONLY THREE HOURS OF DELIBERATION, THE JURY IS READY WITH A VERDICT, AND WE ANXIOUSLY AWAIT THE RETURN OF THE LAWYERS...

CN

I'M HERE TO HELP END THE ABHORRENT PLAGUE OF RACISM. THAT'S WHY I TOOK THIS CASE. NO ONE SHOULD BE FIRED BECAUSE OF THEIR RACE.

ONE THING'S FOR SURE: UNGER KNOWS HOW TO PLAY TO THE CAMERAS.

BRAXTON'S RACE IS A NON-ISSUE. HE WAS FIRED FOR ONLINE GAMBLING ON COMPANY TIME. PERIOD.

BUT HASN'T UNGER PROVED BEYOND A REASONABLE DOUBT THAT YOUR CLIENT IS A RACIST?

JUST BECAUSE MISTER ROSEN LAUGHED AT A RACIAL JOKE DOESN'T MAKE HIM A RACIST.

NEWS

THE JURY WAS OUT FOR LESS THAN THREE HOURS. WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?

ONE SIDE WAS MORE CONVINCING THAN THE OTHER.

IT MEANS THE JURY KNOWS RACISM WHEN THEY *SEE* IT.

EMPHASIS ON "*SEE.*"

MEMBERS OF THE JURY, HAVE YOU REACHED A VERDICT?

WE HAVE, YOUR HONOR.

BY UNANIMOUS DECISION, WE THE JURY FIND THE DEFENDANT, BENJAMIN ROSEN, NOT GUILTY --

-- AND WE FIND THAT THE CASE BROUGHT BY LLOYD BRAXTON IS COMPLETELY WITHOUT MERIT.

ACTIONS HAVE CONSEQUENCES. MR. BRAXTON GAMBLED ON COMPANY TIME WITH COMPANY ASSETS; RATHER THAN ACCEPT THE CONSEQUENCES OF THOSE ACTIONS, HE BLAMED HIS EMPLOYER WITH A SMEAR CAMPAIGN. THE JURY SAW THROUGH IT, AND JUSTICE WAS SERVED.

... THE EXTENT OF MY CLIENT'S GAMBLING CAME AS A TOTAL SHOCK TO ME; HAD MR. BRAXTON BEEN TRUTHFUL WITH ME AT THE BEGINNING, I'D HAVE REJECTED THE CASE.

YOU'RE SAYING THAT YOUR CLIENT LIED TO YOU?

PRECISELY.

WHAT A SLEAZEBAG. HE SHOWBOATS THE CASE INTO A MEDIA CIRCUS, LOSES, THEN BLAMES HIS CLIENT.

CONGRATULATIONS. NO HARD FEELINGS HERE.

HERE'S YOUR HEADLINE: "BLIND LAWYER PROVES JUSTICE IS COLOR-BLIND."

A WORD IN PRIVATE?

OFF THE RECORD: HOW'D YOU FIND OUT ABOUT THE GAMBLING?

AFTER YOU COVERED IT UP? I HAVE A SIXTH SENSE ABOUT THESE THINGS.

ANY BAD HABITS? DRINKING?

NO.

DRUGS?

NO.

GAMBLING?

NO.

I DETECTED HIS IRREGULAR HEARTBEAT DURING HIS DEPOSITION WHEN HE DENIED GAMBLING. THEN I KNEW WHAT TO LOOK FOR...

YOU PAID OFF SOMEONE IN MY OFFICE, DIDN'T YOU?

I DON'T PLAY THAT WAY. NEVER HAVE. NEVER WILL.

MR. UNGER, ARE YOU THREATENING ME?

I'M WARNING YOU, MURDOCK, IF I FIND OUT DIFFERENTLY, I'LL MAKE YOU REGRET IT.

OF COURSE NOT. I'M A LAWYER. I DON'T MAKE THREATS -- I SIMPLY STATE FACTS.

GOOD DAY, MR. MURDOCK.

NO, I DON'T CONSIDER THIS A LOSS. I WAS A VICTIM OF AN UNETHICAL CLIENT...

YOU NEVER FORGET THE FIRST TIME YOU LOSE.

CONGRATULATIONS, MATT..!

THANK YOU, MRS. BARBATO.

I KEEP TELLING YOU, PLEASE CALL ME ANGELA.

I'LL TRY. BUT OLD HABITS DIE HARD. YOUR VOICE REMINDS ME OF MY GRANDMOTHER.

WELL, THE PHONE'S BEEN RINGING OFF THE HOOK SINCE THE VERDICT. EVERYONE WANTS TO HIRE YOU. ***AND*** THEIR GRANDMOTHERS.

NO APPOINTMENTS TILL NEXT WEEK. I NEED TO CATCH MY BREATH.

HAVE SOME COFFEE.

MATT, YOU'VE BEEN SO BUSY ON THE BRAXTON CASE, I HAVEN'T HAD A CHANCE TO INTRODUCE YOU TO OUR NEW INVESTIGATOR. MEET ELAINE KENDRICK.

A PLEASURE, MS. KENDRICK.

ELAINE. AND IT'S AN ABSOLUTE HONOR TO MEET YOU, MR. MURDOCK. YOU'RE A HERO TO ME.

I'M FLATTERED BY YOUR ENTHUSIASM, BUT --

OH, I'M SERIOUS. AFTER WHERE I WAS WORKING, AND WHAT I HAD TO DO THERE, I AM THRILLED TO BE WORKING FOR PEOPLE WITH ETHICS.

WHERE WERE YOU WORKING?

IN WASHINGTON, FOR CONGRESSMAN BARNES.

EXCUSE ME, I DIDN'T MEAN TO --

YES, YOU DID. AND I COULDN'T HAVE DESCRIBED HIM ANY BETTER MYSELF. OH, I KNEW I'D LIKE YOU, MR. MURDOCK.

CALL ME MATT.

OKAY. MATT.

GUESS WHO GETS OUT OF PRISON TODAY, FULL SENTENCE SERVED? JONATHAN POWERS.

THE JESTER.

A FAILED ACTOR WITH A SICK SENSE OF "FUN," HE WAS OBSESSED WITH PLAYING DAREDEVIL FOR THE FOOL -- EVEN FRAMING ME FOR MURDER.

THIS IS DEFINITELY *NOT* A GOOD THING.

IMPORTANT NEWS!

JUST BECAUSE WE GO BY OUR FIRST NAMES AROUND HERE DOESN'T MEAN WE DON'T KNOCK.

OH, I'M SORRY. YOU'RE RIGHT. THERE'S NO EXCUSE. I'LL COME BACK LATER.

NO, NOW THAT YOU'RE HERE, PLEASE TELL US THE "IMPORTANT NEWS."

JONATHAN POWERS, THE JESTER, IS BEING RELEASED FROM PRISON TODAY, FULL SENTENCE SERVED. FRANKLIN SAID YOU'RE ALWAYS TO BE TOLD IMMEDIATELY WHEN --

-- OH.

THANK YOU, ELAINE.

YOU CAN GO.

AND "FRANKLIN," I MUST COMMEND YOU ON YOUR EXCELLENT JOB OF INFORMING OUR NEW EMPLOYEE HOW THINGS OPERATE AROUND HERE.

SHE'S TOO YOUNG FOR YOU, "FRANKLIN."

I SWEAR, I DIDN'T HIRE HER FOR HER LOOKS!

OKAY, I ADMIT, SHE LOOKS GREAT, BUT IT'S A KNOWN FACT THAT A GREAT-LOOKING GIRL CAN GET INTO PLACES THAT GUYS CAN'T.

SHE'S GOOD, MATT. AND SHE'S FULL OF INITIATIVE.

KNOCK KNOCK

COME IN.

OH, MR. MURDOCK? MATT? I CONSIDER IT PART OF MY JOB TO MAKE YOUR LIFE EASIER -- IN ALL ASPECTS. SO I'VE TAKEN THE LIBERTY OF GETTING YOU A NEW LAUNDRY SERVICE -- THEY PICK UP *AND* DELIVER, AT HALF THE COST OF YOUR OLD SERVICE. THEY'RE ON SPEED DIAL 61.

WHY, THANK YOU, THAT'S --

AND YOUR NEW GROCERY DELIVERY SERVICE IS ON 62 -- JUST TELL THEM WHAT YOU WANT AND THEY DELIVER IN AN HOUR. AND SPEED DIAL 63 IS FOR DELIVERY OF COOKED MEALS FROM ANY RESTAURANT WITHIN 2 MILES. OR JUST ASK ME.

WOULD YOU LIKE ME TO LOOK INTO A VOICE ACTIVATED PHONE FOR YOU?

UH, NO, I'M USED TO THESE, BUT THANK YOU, ELAINE. FOR EVERYTHING.

YOU'RE WELCOME, MATT.

YOU'RE RIGHT ABOUT THE INITIATIVE...

WELL, POWERS, CAN'T SAY WE'RE GONNA MISS YOU.

THE FEELING IS MUTUAL.

HERE'S YOUR COSTUME. OR WHAT'S LEFT OF IT.

AREN'T YOU GONNA PUT IT ON? THE HAT IS, LIKE, *"SO COOL, MAN."*

YOU WEAR IT. MAYBE SOMEBODY'LL TAKE A SHOT AT YOU.

AWW, THAT'S NOT NICE.

I'M NOT A NICE GUY.

WE KNEW THAT. NOW TAKE YOUR GARBAGE OUT OF HERE.

I'VE PAID MY DEBT TO SOCIETY.

STARTING TODAY, JONATHAN POWERS IS TURNING OVER A NEW LEAF.

CAN IT BE? THE JESTER'S GOING STRAIGHT?

YEAH. STRAIGHT TO HELL.

SAMUEL GRIGGS IS HERE. HE KNOWS HE DOESN'T HAVE AN APPOINTMENT, BUT HE WAS HOPING YOU COULD SEE HIM...?

SAMUEL GRIGGS, *THE* SAMUEL GRIGGS? HERE?

I, UH, DON'T KNOW. I'LL ASK. ARE YOU *THE* SAMUEL GRIGGS?

YES.

YES.

SEND HIM IN.

I APOLOGIZE FOR SHOWING UP WITHOUT AN APPOINTMENT, MR. MURDOCK, AND I APPRECIATE YOU SEEING ME. OH -- SORRY, BAD CHOICE OF WORDS -- FORGIVE ME.

I'M HONORED TO HAVE YOU HERE, MR. GRIGGS. YOUR PHILANTHROPY AND THE GOOD WORKS OF THE GRIGGS FOUNDATION ARE AN INSPIRATION TO US ALL. PLEASE SIT DOWN.

I KNOW YOU'RE A BUSY MAN, MR. MURDOCK, SO I'LL GET RIGHT TO THE POINT. I NEED A LAWYER.

I THOUGHT YOU HAD A LAWYER.

A DOZEN, ACTUALLY. YET EVERY ONE OF THEM REFUSES TO CONSIDER THIS CASE.

OKAY, YOU'VE GOT MY ATTENTION.

YESTERDAY I WAS ALL SET TO BRING THIS TO UNGER, BUT YOUR VICTORY AGAINST HIM CHANGED MY MIND -- THAT, AND YOUR REPUTATION FOR TAKING CHALLENGES.

AND WHAT IS THE CHALLENGE?

I WANT TO SUE DAREDEVIL.

THAT *WOULD* BE A CHALLENGE...

DON'T LAUGH -- I'M SERIOUS.

STRONG STEADY HEARTBEAT... HE IS SERIOUS.

IT'S NEVER BEEN DONE BEFORE -- SUING A COSTUMED SUPER HERO.

NOT TRUE. THE FANTASTIC FOUR HAVE BEEN SUED. IN FACT, I'VE DEFENDED THEM. SUCCESSFULLY.

I MEANT, SUING A SUPER HERO WHOSE IDENTITY IS UNKNOWN. I UNDERSTAND THE DIFFICULTIES, BUT I'LL MAKE IT WORTH YOUR --

EXCUSE ME, MR. GRIGGS, BUT --

YOU'RE THROWING ME OUT? WITHOUT A HEARING?

NO, I WANT MY PARTNER IN HERE -- HE'LL BE AS ANXIOUS AS I AM TO HEAR YOUR STORY.

FOGGY, MEET SAMUEL GRIGGS. MR. GRIGGS WANTS TO SUE DAREDEVIL.

I THOUGHT YOU'D BE INTERESTED.

NOW, MR. GRIGGS, TELL US: WHY DO YOU WANT TO SUE DAREDEVIL... ?

IT WAS THE NIGHT OF THE 8TH. AROUND 1:30 A.M. I WAS AT MY ESTATE ON LONG ISLAND, IN ELMDALE, ALONE -- MY WIFE WAS OUT OF TOWN. I COULDN'T SLEEP, SO I WENT OUT TO MY GREENHOUSE.

"I HAVE A SPECTACULAR GREENHOUSE, AND I FIND BEING WITH MY PLANTS VERY RESTFUL.

"THEN *THEY* CRASHED THROUGH, FROM A TREE -- TWO MASKED NINJAS, PURSUED BY DAREDEVIL.

"NATURALLY, I WAS SCARED. SO I HID.

"DAREDEVIL ACTED LIKE IT WAS A GAME, SWINGING HIS CLUB, ENGAGING IN ACROBATICS...

"THEY ALL MADE A SHAMBLES OF THE PLACE.

"JUST WHEN I THOUGHT IT WAS OVER...

"... ONE OF THE THUGS THREW A GAS BOMB.

"DAREDEVIL WAS STUNNED AND THEY ESCAPED.

"IN MOMENTS, DAREDEVIL REGAINED HIMSELF AND CONTINUED THE PURSUIT.

"AND THEN THEY DISAPPEARED, LIKE ETHEREAL SPIRITS INTO THE NIGHT. THAT WAS THE LAST I SAW OF ANY OF THEM.

"I CALLED THE POLICE. THEY SAID THERE'D BEEN SOME ROBBERIES OVER THE PAST WEEKS--

"-- AND PROBABLY DAREDEVIL HAD THWARTED ONE IN PROGRESS.

"MEANWHILE, I WAS STUCK WITH $50,000 IN PROPERTY DAMAGE."

MR. GRIGGS, EVEN ASSUMING EVERYTHING YOU'VE SAID IS TRUE --

IT'S TRUE, GENTLEMEN. EVERY DETAIL. I'M AN EXCELLENT OBSERVER, AND I HAVE A MEMORY LIKE AN ELEPHANT.

THEN TELL ME: WHAT COLOR IS MY TIE?

PURPLE.

RIGHT.

MR. GRIGGS, WHY BRING A SUIT LIKE THIS? YOU HAVE INSURANCE TO COVER THE DAMAGES; THE PUBLICITY COULD BE HARMFUL, OUR FEES WON'T BE INCONSEQUENTIAL...

TO SAY NOTHING OF THE LOGISTICS. I DON'T KNOW HOW WE'D EVER SERVE A SUBPOENA ON DAREDEVIL.

AND EVEN IF WE WIN, ***WHAT*** WOULD WE WIN? DAMAGES? DAREDEVIL, WHOMEVER HE IS, MOST LIKELY DOESN'T HAVE INSURANCE, NOR HAS HE THE KIND OF MONEY TO MAKE WINNING THIS CASE WORTHWHILE.

WE BRING THIS SUIT BECAUSE IT'S THE RIGHT THING TO DO.

THIS CITY IS FULL OF COSTUMED *"HEROES"* -- AND YES, THEY DO ACCOMPLISH MANY WORTHWHILE THINGS -- BUT AT WHAT COST? TODAY, THE NEWS REPORTED THAT DAREDEVIL THWARTED A BANK ROBBERY BUT, IN THE PROCESS, DESTROYED PROPERTY, INCLUDING SOMEONE'S CAR. DOES THAT CAR OWNER THINK DAREDEVIL IS A HERO? HAD THE CROOKS ESCAPED, INSURANCE WOULD HAVE COVERED THE BANK'S LOSS, AND NO PROPERTY WOULD HAVE BEEN DESTROYED.

BUT THE ROBBERS ARE NOW IN CUSTODY.

AND THEY'LL BE OUT ON BAIL, AND A SMART LAWYER'LL GET THEM OFF. WHERE'S THE JUSTICE?

AS YOU SAID, MR. MURDOCK, *"ACTIONS HAVE CONSEQUENCES."* WELL, IT'S TIME FOR THE COSTUMES TO ACCEPT THE CONSEQUENCES OF THEIR ACTIONS. AND THEY WON'T UNTIL GOOD PEOPLE LIKE US FORCE THEM TO.

HE'S VERY PERSUASIVE...

NO...

FAR FROM PROFITING, I EXPECT THIS CASE TO COST ME MONEY. BUT BRINGING IT WILL FOCUS ATTENTION ON AN IMPORTANT ISSUE: IN AMERICA, ALL PEOPLE -- RICH OR POOR, STRONG OR WEAK, WHITE OR BLACK, COSTUMED OR NUDE -- MUST TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THEIR ACTIONS. DAREDEVIL INCLUDED. DO YOU DISAGREE?

AND TO MAKE IT MORE ENTICING TO YOU, MR. MURDOCK, IF YOU TAKE THIS CASE AND SEE IT THROUGH, I WILL MAKE A DONATION OF $100,000 TO THE FOUNDATION FOR THE JUNIOR BLIND. YOU'LL BE HELPING BLIND CHILDREN ALL ACROSS AMERICA.

YOU DO KNOW HOW TO SAY ALL THE RIGHT THINGS, MR. GRIGGS.

I KNOW UNGER WOULD TAKE THIS CASE IN A MINUTE, BUT I'D RATHER *YOU* HANDLE IT.

I WANT TO DISCUSS THIS WITH MY PARTNER. I'LL HAVE AN ANSWER FOR YOU IN 24 HOURS.

THANK YOU, MR. MURDOCK.

THAT MAKES TWO OF US.

WELL?

IT'S... PUZZLING.

THEN HIS STORY IS TRUE?

OF COURSE NOT! I WAS NEVER THERE. ONLY...

WHAT?

HE BELIEVES IT. HIS HEARTBEAT STAYED CONSTANT. I COULDN'T SENSE THE SLIGHTEST DOUBT OR HESITATION. HE'D PASS A POLYGRAPH TEST WITH FLYING COLORS. CLEARLY, SOMETHING HAPPENED...

ALTHOUGH, IF THERE WAS AN IMPOSTER MASQUERADING AS DAREDEVIL, SURELY WE'D HAVE HEARD ABOUT IT.

WE *ARE* HEARING ABOUT IT.

SPEND YOUR EFFORTS TRYING TO FIND *HIM*, AND DON'T EVEN THINK ABOUT TAKING THIS CASE.

$100,000 WOULD DO SOME BLIND KIDS A LOT OF GOOD...

YOU'RE RATIONALIZING.

FOGGY, IF WE DON'T TAKE THE CASE, GRIGGS'LL KEEP AT IT UNTIL HE FINDS SOMEONE WHO WILL. LIKE CLAUDE UNGER. AND THE LAST THING DAREDEVIL NEEDS IS CLAUDE UNGER POKING AROUND IN HIS LIFE.

WE CAN'T DO IT, MATT! IT'S INSANE! TO SAY NOTHING OF THE ETHICS! ALLOWING YOURSELF TO BE HIRED TO SUE YOURSELF -- IT'S ILLEGAL! YOU COULD BE DISBARRED!

IT'LL DIE ON THE VINE. REMEMBER, THE CASE HAS NO MERIT. ONCE WE INVESTIGATE AND I FIND THIS IMPOSTER, IT FALLS APART, END OF STORY. IT'LL BE OVER INSIDE OF A WEEK.

MATT, WE DON'T NEED TO TAKE THE CASE IN ORDER TO INVESTIGATE IT.

NO, BUT IT'LL MAKE IT A LOT EASIER. I CAN GET MUCH CLOSER TO GRIGGS, GET TOTAL ACCESS TO EVERYTHING.

AND IF WE TAKE THE CASE, WE CAN CONTROL IT. THAT'S CRITICAL. UNGER WOULD PLAY TO THE CAMERA, TURN IT INTO A MEDIA CIRCUS, AND THAT'S TO BE AVOIDED AT ALL COSTS.

I VOTE NO, BUT I'LL LEAVE IT TO YOU. YOU OBVIOUSLY HAVE MORE AT STAKE HERE THAN I DO.

I JUST WANT TO ASK YOU ONE QUESTION. ARE YOU SURE YOU COULDN'T HAVE DONE THIS?

OF COURSE NOT! SOMETHING LIKE THAT, I'D REMEMBER.

THEN WHERE WERE YOU AT 1:30 A.M. ON THE NIGHT OF THE 8TH?

SLEEPING.

YOU SURE?

OF COURSE I'M SURE!

SLEEP*ING*, NOT SLEEP-WALKING?

FOGGY, WHOSE SIDE ARE YOU ON HERE?

I'M ON THE SIDE OF THE TRUTH. THAT'S OUR JOB, RIGHT? TO FIND THE TRUTH? AND AFTER WHAT YOU WENT THROUGH WITH MYSTERIO, ISN'T IT ***POSSIBLE*** THAT SOMETHING CRAZY HAPPENED?

WHAT IF YOU WERE UNDER SOME SORT OF MIND CONTROL OR SOMETHING?

RIGHT, I GET PUT UNDER MIND CONTROL SO THAT I'LL GO TO LONG ISLAND IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT, CHASE SOME CROOKS, THEN FORGET ALL ABOUT IT. THAT'S ***REAL*** LOGICAL.

I HAD TO ASK, MATT. ONLY, WOULD YOU DO ME ONE FAVOR?

SLEEP ON IT BEFORE YOU DECIDE.

"SLEEP ON IT." RIGHT. LIKE THAT'S POSSIBLE.

UNGER IS GUNNING FOR ME, AND WOULD GRAB THIS CASE IN A SECOND IF HE KNEW I TURNED IT DOWN. THE JESTER IS BACK ON THE STREET, INTENTIONS UNKNOWN... AND NOW I'M FACED WITH A DECISION FRAUGHT WITH PITFALLS NO MATTER WHICH CHOICE I MAKE...

MAYBE I SHOULD JUST FLIP A COIN.

HEADS -- I TAKE THE CASE. TAILS -- I DON'T.

A TYPICAL DAY IN FESTIVE NEW YORK...

FINE FOOD

JOE'S BAR

CLOUDY, DAMP AND GLOOMY.

THAT'S WHEN TYPICAL NEW YORKERS...

... SEEK TYPICAL SHELTER...

... FROM THE TYPICAL ELEMENTS.

AND TWO OF THE CITY'S MOST UNTYPICAL CITIZENS ARE NO EXCEPTION.

MY BROTHER'S KEEPER

I'LL TOSS YOU FOR THE NEXT ROUND, HORNHEAD.

NO WAY, LITTLE MAN. I DON'T HAVE A COIN ON ME.

I MEANT *REALLY* TOSS YOU. TWO FALLS OUT OF THREE.

UH-UH. WHY EMBARRASS YOU IN FRONT OF ALL THESE PEOPLE?

THAT DAREDEVIL -- WOTTA WASTE!

IF I LOOKED LIKE HIM I'D HAVE A BABE ON EACH ARM, INSTEAD OF SHMOOZING WITH ANOTHER SUPER HERO!

Y'KNOW, YOU NEVER TOLD ME WHAT YOUR CORNY LITTLE HEAD-HORNS ARE FOR.
GET WITH THE PROGRAM, SON. THEY'RE BABE MAGNETS.
MISTER DAREDEVIL, ARE YOU MARRIED?
IF NOT, MY NAME'S ZEDELIA.
MAYBE IT'S THE MASK THAT GETS THEM.
HEY, PAY ATTENTION WHEN I'M RIBBIN' YA.
IT'LL HAVE TO WAIT, JUNIOR.
DUTY CALLS.
YOU HEARD SOMETHING I DIDN'T?
YEAH, MAYBE IF YOU TOOK THE WAX OUT...
A WOMAN -- CRYING FOR HELP!
PAY THE MAN, WEB-HEAD!
THAT'S TWO BURGERS, TWO LARGE CHILIS, A COUPLE OF BREWS AND...
SHEEESH! THAT GRINNING GALOOT STIFFED ME AGAIN!

POOR SPIDEY. I HOPE HIS CREDIT'S GOOD WITH THAT GUY.

LET'S SEE, THE CRY I HEARD CAME FROM AROUND THE CORNER...

PLEASE! IT --IT'S ALL THE MONEY I HAVE.

HEY, YER LUCKY I DON'T GIT ANGRY 'CAUSE YOU AIN'T GOT MORE!

NOW FORK IT OVER!

THE LADY SAID "*PLEASE*."

WHAT PART OF "*PLEASE*" DON'T YOU UNDERSTAND?

IF YOU'RE GONNA KEEP HITTING MY FIST WITH YOUR FACE --

-- I HOPE YOU KNOW A GOOD ORTHODONTIST.

THE POLICE!

JUST WHEN WE WERE BEGINNING TO BOND.

EEEOOP

MEANWHILE...*

I HOPE HORNHEAD'S OKAY.

WHAT IF HE BIT OFF MORE THAN HE CAN CHEW?

* "MEANWHILE," THE MOST IMPORTANT WORD IN COMICS! CAN'T HARDLY DO A STORY WITHOUT IT.

NO HARM IN CHECKING IT OUT.

I SURE WOULDN'T WANT ANYTHING TO HAPPEN TO HIM.

NOT TILL HE SETTLES UP FOR THOSE BURGERS!

THX 2

7182

THERE'S A SQUAD CAR DOWN BELOW.

LOOKS LIKE MY MAN MATTHEW HAS THE SITUATION WELL IN HAND.

IS THERE ANY CHANCE THAT I'LL SEE THIS ON "*LAW AND ORDER*" LATER ON?

YOU NEVER KNOW, LADY. THEY ONCE HAD ME ON "*COPS.*"

YOU SURE ARE AN UGLY MESS, MISTER.

BUT DON'T WORRY, THEY'LL HAVE PLENTY OF BAND-AIDS WHERE YOU'RE GOING.

ONLY ONE CRUMMY MUGGER?

AND I WASTED ALL THAT PRIME-TIME WORRY ON 'IM!

SUDDENLY... (ANOTHER GREAT COMICBOOK WORD!)

I CAN HEAR SPIDEY BREATHING ABOVE ME.

HIS SPIDER-SENSE IS STARTING TO TINGLE.

HE'S GONE!

I KNEW IT!

THERE'S A GANG WAR IN HELL'S KITCHEN!

NO WAY I'LL COVER UP GENE'S GREAT ACTION PANEL WITH LOTS OF DIALOGUE! -- SENSITIVE STAN.

BUT MY WILLPOWER CAN ONLY LAST SO LONG...

I'M NURTURING A DEEP-ROOTED FEELING OF HOSTILITY TOWARDS YOU.

BECAUSE YOU'RE RUINING MY DIGESTION.

YOU SEE, A PERSON SHOULD REST FOR AN HOUR AFTER HE EATS.

YOU'D BETTER HOPE I DON'T GET HEARTBURN!

HEY, MAN, WE WERE JUST HAVIN' FUN.

YEAH, RIGHT. THAT'S WHY I JOINED THE PARTY.

THINK OF ME AS YOUR FRIENDLY NEIGHBORHOOD KILLJOY.

NEXT TO ME, THE GRINCH IS A BARREL OF LAUGHS.

AND, SPEAKING OF BARRELS --

-- THIS OUGHT'A HOLD YOU TILL YOU COOL OFF.

AND NEXT TIME YOU TRY TO TURN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD INTO A WAR ZONE --

UH-OH. THE MASKED MOTHER HEN IS UP THERE, LOOKING AFTER ME.

HEY, CHUCKLES, WHEN I NEED A NURSEMAID I'LL LETCHA KNOW.

NOW WE'RE EVEN, WEBBIE.

SEE YA NEXT WEEK AT JOE'S PLACE.

AND DON'T FORGET YOUR CREDIT CARD.

HEY, IT'S ONLY A 6-PAGER. WHAT WERE YOU EXPECTING, THE BROTHERS KARAMAZOV? EXCELSIOR! -- FROM SURLY STAN.

DAREDEVIL **21**

IT'S A PUZZLE. PHILANTHROPIST SAMUEL GRIGGS WANTS TO HIRE ME TO SUE DAREDEVIL FOR WANTON DESTRUCTION OF HIS GREENHOUSE.

ALTHOUGH I'VE NEVER BEEN NEAR HIS ESTATE, HE CLEARLY BELIEVES DAREDEVIL IS RESPONSIBLE. AND GRIGGS IS TOO RICH AND TOO REPUTABLE TO TAKE SUCH ACTION ON A WHIM.

WHICH MEANS THAT SOMEONE COULD BE MASQUERADING AS ME... OR WORSE. THE QUESTION IS, SHOULD I TAKE THE CASE?

IF I SIGN ON, AT LEAST I CAN CONTROL IT.

IF I DON'T, SOME MEDIA-HUNGRY LAWYER LIKE CLAUDE UNGER WILL JUMP IN... AND THE IDEA OF SOMEONE LIKE THAT COMING AFTER DAREDEVIL RAISES MY HACKLES...

FOGGY, I'M CALLING GRIGGS AND TAKING THE CASE. FOR ALL THE REASONS WE DISCUSSED.

YOU'RE MAKING A BIG MISTAKE, MATT.

THEN IT'S MY MISTAKE TO MAKE. THIS AFFECTS ME, PERSONALLY.

ANOTHER REASON TO TURN IT DOWN: PLAYING BOTH SIDES AGAINST THE MIDDLE IS A RECIPE FOR DISASTER.

THERE'S ONLY ONE SIDE HERE: TRUTH. AND THIS IS THE BEST WAY FOR ME TO UNCOVER IT.

US, MATT. I'M STILL YOUR PARTNER. I'LL BACK YOU UP, SUPPORT YOU, DO WHATEVER'S NECESSARY TO MAKE THIS GO AWAY. I JUST WANT YOU TO KNOW WHERE I STAND.

THANKS, I WOULDN'T WANT IT ANY OTHER WAY.

...AND SPEND SOME TIME WITH YOU TO GO OVER EVERYTHING IN MORE DETAIL. WE'D ALSO LIKE TO VISIT THE SCENE OF THE "CRIME..."

HOW ABOUT MONDAY MORNING, MR. MURDOCK?

GRIGGS IS SENDING A CAR TO TAKE US TO HIS LONG ISLAND ESTATE MONDAY MORNING, SO WE CAN BEGIN OUR OFFICIAL INVESTIGATION. HOWEVER, DAREDEVIL'S OFFICIAL INVESTIGATION BEGINS THERE *TONIGHT*.

MATT -- THERE'S NO WAY DAREDEVIL CAN BE SEEN ANYWHERE NEAR GRIGGS OR HIS PROPERTY. WHAT IF YOU'RE SPOTTED? OR A SECURITY CAMERA TAKES A PICTURE?

FRIDAY 28 SEPTEMBER

RIGHT. I GUESS I'D HAVE SOME EXPLAINING TO DO...

BIG TIME. YOU HAVEN'T BEEN ON THE CASE 24 HOURS AND IT'S ALREADY CLOUDED YOUR JUDGMENT.

THE BEST THING TO DO RIGHT NOW IS TO TRACK DOWN THIS DAREDEVIL IMPOSTOR.

SO, ANY BIG PLANS FOR THE WEEKEND?

FRIDAY NIGHT.

SATURDAY NIGHT.

...WHAT WOULD I DO AND WHERE WOULD I GO?

SUNDAY NIGHT.

QUESTION: IF I WAS GOING TO IMPERSONATE DAREDEVIL...

ANSWER: I HAVE NO IDEA.

MONDAY MORNING.

MONEY MAY NOT BUY HAPPINESS, BUT IT CAN SURE BUY A NICER NEIGHBORHOOD.

THE ONE THING WE HAVE TO EMPHASIZE TO GRIGGS IS THE IMPORTANCE OF KEEPING EVERYTHING LOW-KEY AND UNDER CONTROL.

AMEN.

MR. NELSON AND MR. MURDOCK TO SEE MR. GRIGGS.

YES, MR. GRIGGS IS EXPECTING YOU IN THE GARDEN.

STAN LEE PRESENTS:

DAREDEVIL

PLAYING TO THE CAMERA PART TWO

A FELLOW OF INFINITE JEST

I AM PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE THAT I HAVE ENGAGED THE FIRM OF NELSON AND MURDOCK TO BRING MY SUIT AGAINST THE MASKED VIGILANTE DAREDEVIL FOR DESTRUCTION OF MY PROPERTY.

SO MUCH FOR KEEPING THINGS "LOW-KEY AND UNDER CONTROL."

MR. MURDOCK! DO YOU BELIEVE DAREDEVIL IS A CRIMINAL?

MR. NELSON! HOW DO YOU INTEND TO SERVE PAPERS ON DAREDEVIL?

WHAT ARE YOUR CHANCES OF WINNING THIS CASE?

HAVE YOU HAD ANY CONTACT WITH DAREDEVIL?

FRIENDS... WE BEG YOUR PARDON, BUT MR. GRIGGS NEGLECTED TO INFORM US THAT WE'D BE STEPPING INTO A PRESS CONFERENCE.

OUR POSITION IS THAT WE REQUIRE A DETAILED DISCUSSION WITH OUR CLIENT BEFORE WE MAKE ANY STATEMENT TO THE PRESS.

MR. GRIGGS, DO YOU HAVE ANYTHING TO ADD?

SPEAKING FOR OUR CLIENT, NO, HE DOES NOT. THAT WILL BE ALL, GENTLEMEN. AND LADIES.

THAT'S ENOUGH.

HELL, IT'S MORE THAN ENOUGH!

GRIGGS, I'VE A MIND TO BAIL ON THIS CASE. WHERE DO YOU GET OFF TURNING A CONSULTATION INTO A PRESS CONFERENCE?

LAWSUITS ARE WARS. WE'VE JUST FIRED THE OPENING SHOT.

LET US DECIDE WHEN TO FIRE THE SHOTS.

GENTLEMEN, THROUGHOUT MY CAREER, I'VE LEARNED HOW TO PLAY THE MEDIA. THEY CAN BE A TREMENDOUS ASSET IF USED PROPERLY. SO, YOU HANDLE THE LEGAL ASPECTS, AND I'LL HANDLE THE MEDIA.

NO, GRIGGS. WE CAN'T HAVE YOU RUNNING TO THE PRESS AND MAKING STATEMENTS ON A WHIM. IT COULD BOOMERANG. ANYTHING YOU SAY CAN BE USED AGAINST YOU.

AND YOU COULD MAKE US LOOK BAD.

VERY WELL. I'LL KEEP A LID ON IT.

FOR A CRIME SCENE WITH EXTENSIVE DAMAGE, YOU GOT IT ALL REPAIRED RATHER QUICKLY...

MY PLANTS ARE MY PASSION, AND THIS GREENHOUSE IS A SOURCE OF GREAT JOY TO ME. I COULDN'T TOLERATE HAVING IT IN SHAMBLES. HOWEVER, I DID PHOTOGRAPH THE DAMAGE.

WHAT HAPPENED TO ALL THE BROKEN GLASS?

HAULED AWAY BY THE REPAIR CREW.

SO WE DON'T KNOW IF THERE WAS BLOOD ON ANY OF THE GLASS? BLOOD THAT COULD BE USED FOR DNA TESTING?

I NEVER THOUGHT OF THAT. NOR DID THE LOCAL POLICE.

YOU SAID THAT THE PERPETRATORS WERE NINJAS. DID THEY WEAR GLOVES...?

YES.

WHICH RULES OUT FINGERPRINTS.

I DON'T KNOW WHAT SORT OF CASE WE'VE GOT HERE, MR. GRIGGS. WITH NO HARD EVIDENCE, AND LITTLE POSSIBILITY OF FINDING ANY, IT'LL BE YOUR WORD AGAINST DAREDEVIL'S.

ASSUMING, OF COURSE, WE CAN EVEN GET DAREDEVIL INTO A COURTROOM.

MR. GRIGGS, WE'D LIKE YOU TO RELATE THE EVENTS ONCE AGAIN, AND THIS TIME I'M GOING TO TAPE IT.

CERTAINLY...

... GRIGGS ANNOUNCED HIS INTENTION TO SUE DAREDEVIL AT HIS ELMDALE LONG ISLAND HOME ABOUT TWO HOURS AGO --

CLICK

SINCE WE'RE NOW A MAJOR NEWS ITEM, WE'LL HAVE TO FILE IMMEDIATELY OR WE'LL LOOK LIKE SLACKERS.

RIGHT. LET'S PUT ELAINE ON THAT.

YOU THINK GRIGGS WAS TRYING TO FORCE OUR HAND WITH THAT PRESS AMBUSH? TO MAKE US FILE?

NO. I THINK HE'S SIMPLY A MAN WHO LIKES TO BE IN CONTROL. HE'S USED TO CALLING THE SHOTS.

AND HE OBVIOUSLY LOVES BEING IN THE PUBLIC EYE.

DAMN. ALL THE TIME I WAS WORRYING ABOUT ME, I SHOULD HAVE BEEN DOING HOMEWORK ON GRIGGS. INSTEAD, I JUST ASSUMED WHAT KIND OF MAN HE WAS, BASED ON HIS PUBLIC IMAGE.

I'M EQUALLY TO BLAME. I GUESS WE JUST EXPECT PHILANTHROPISTS TO BE QUIET GUYS WHO SIT IN BOARD ROOMS AND DOLE OUT MONEY.

THIS ONE'S GONNA BE ANOTHER MEDIA CIRCUS.

IT ALREADY IS. MAYBE WE REALLY SHOULD BAIL.

WE'LL LOOK LIKE FOOLS. AND AFTER MY DEFEAT OF UNGER LAST WEEK, YOU CAN BE SURE HE'D JUMP IN, JUST FOR SPITE. NO, FOGGY, THIS IS NOW OUR CASE -- FOR BETTER OR WORSE.

MR. MURDOCK, IS IT YOUR UNDERSTANDING THAT --

MR. NELSON, IS TRUE THAT --

NO COMMENT.

MR. NELSON, CAN YOU TELL US IF --

MR. MURDOCK, DOES THIS CASE MEAN THAT --

NO COMMENT.

THIS DAREDEVIL THING? FOGGY'S ASKED ME TO FILE THE REQUISITE DOCUMENTS, BUT I WANT YOU TO KNOW ...

UH-OH, HERE IT COMES -- OUTRAGE AND INDIGNATION...

... I THINK IT'S GREAT!

YOU DO?

YES! IT TAKES REAL GUTS TO STAND UP TO SOMEBODY LIKE DAREDEVIL.

SO... UH, YOU DON'T LIKE DAREDEVIL?

WELL...

... TAKE THE FANTASTIC FOUR. THEY DON'T WEAR MASKS, THEY HAVE REAL NAMES, WE KNOW WHERE THEY LIVE. THE AVENGERS... WELL, SOME OF THEM WEAR MASKS, BUT THEY HAVE A HEADQUARTERS. THEY'RE ACCESSIBLE.

BUT THEN THERE'S SPIDER-MAN AND DAREDEVIL. WHO ARE THEY? WHY DO THEY HAVE TO HIDE? I'M JUST NOT SURE YOU CAN TRUST THEM.

I'VE ALWAYS HAD TO KEEP MY OPINION TO MYSELF -- IT'S NOT EXACTLY POPULAR. BUT I'M GLAD WE'RE SIMPATICO ON THE SUBJECT. I JUST KNEW WE'D HIT IT OFF.

WHAT MAKES YOU SO SURE WE'RE SO... SIMPATICO?

DUH? WHY ELSE WOULD YOU TAKE THIS CASE?

GREAT. SHE'S ENAMORED OF MATT MURDOCK BUT HAS NO REGARD FOR DAREDEVIL. TWO PEOPLE, THREE IDENTITIES, ONE MESS. THIS IS ALREADY WAY TOO COMPLICATED AND IT'S BARELY GOTTEN STARTED.

ELAINE, MUCH TO OUR CHAGRIN, THIS CASE IS GOING TO BE A MAJOR MEDIA MAGNET AND --

DON'T WORRY, I KNOW ALL ABOUT THE MEDIA -- HOW NOT TO ANSWER THEIR QUESTIONS, HOW NOT TO SAY ANYTHING. I USED TO WORK FOR A CONGRESSMAN, REMEMBER?

SO, HAVE YOU THOUGHT ABOUT HOW WE'RE GOING TO SERVE DAREDEVIL?

UH, NO. FOGGY AND I HAVE TO DISCUSS THAT...

I'LL THINK ABOUT IT TOO. MAYBE I CAN COME UP WITH SOME-THING.

GOOD. WE LIKE INITIATIVE AROUND HERE.

THE KINGPIN:

THIS MORNING SAMUEL GRIGGS ANNOUNCED HE HAD ENGAGED FAMED ATTORNEYS MATT MURDOCK AND FRANKLIN NELSON IN A PLANNED LAWSUIT AGAINST DAREDEVIL.

OH, THIS IS GOING TO BE GOOD..!

BLACK WIDOW:

GRIGGS CLAIMS THAT DAREDEVIL WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR EXTENSIVE PROPERTY DAMAGE TO HIS LONG ISLAND ESTATE TWO WEEKS AGO.

GOOD LORD, MATT, HAVE YOU LOST YOUR MIND?

SPIDER-MAN:

NEITHER MURDOCK NOR NELSON WOULD MAKE ANY COMMENTS ABOUT THE CASE.

BECAUSE THEIR FEET WERE SHOVED TOO DEEPLY IN THEIR MOUTHS TO TALK.

J. JONAH JAMESON:

NO COMMENT.

NO COMMENT.

WEBSTERS

WELL, I HAVE A COMMENT!

EDITORIAL FOR TOMORROW'S EDITION IN SUPPORT OF THIS LAWSUIT AGAINST DAREDEVIL.

JONATHAN POWERS, AKA THE JESTER:

YOU CAN BE SURE THAT WMVL NEWS WILL BE ALL OVER THIS RED-SUIT LAWSUIT.

WELL, WELL... MY OLD ENEMY IS HAVING LEGAL PROBLEMS. THIS IS A VERY INTERESTING DEVELOPMENT.

GRIGGS WAS RIGHT WHEN HE SAID THESE THINGS ARE WARS, WARS THAT CAN BE WON OR LOST ON THE FIELD OF PUBLIC OPINION.

THANK GOODNESS THE REPORTERS LEFT AFTER WE CLOSED THE OFFICE. I'M AFRAID THEY'RE GOING TO BE A FIXTURE AROUND THERE FOR AWHILE, AND THAT COULD MAKE IT TOUGH TO CHANGE TO DAREDEVIL.

IF I CAN'T FIND THE IMPOSTOR, I'VE AT LEAST GOTTA GET OUT THERE AND SHOW THE WORLD THAT DAREDEVIL IS A HERO.

SO, I CAN'T LET ANYONE THINK I'M HIDING. DAREDEVIL HAS TO BE SEEN IN HIS PUBLIC PERSONA, AS A CRIMEFIGHTER, A MAN WITHOUT FEAR, WORKING FOR THE PUBLIC GOOD.

AT THE SAME TIME, EVERYTHING I DO IS GOING TO BE SCRUTINIZED THROUGH A MAGNIFYING GLASS AND GONE OVER WITH A FINE-TOOTHED COMB.

GIVE US ALL YOU'VE GOT, SISTER, OR WE'LL TAKE IT OUT IN TRADE!

HELL, I SAY WE TAKE IT OUT IN TRADE ANYWAY!

HOW ABOUT I JUST TAKE *YOU* OUT!

THANK YOU, DAREDEVIL. GOD BLESS YOU.

YOU'RE WELCOME, MA'AM.

GOOD LUCK WITH THAT LAWSUIT.

DAMN. HOW COME THERE'S NEVER A TV NEWS VAN AROUND WHEN YOU NEED 'EM?

MY NAME IS ELAINE KENDRICK. I'M HERE TO ISSUE A PUBLIC REQUEST TO DAREDEVIL ON BEHALF OF NELSON AND MURDOCK, ATTORNEYS FOR Mr. SAMUEL GRIGGS.

I WILL BE HERE AT TEN A.M.TOMORROW WITH LEGAL DOCUMENTS IN THE MATTER OF GRIGGS VERSUS DAREDEVIL. I ASK DAREDEVIL TO COME FORWARD AND BE SERVED.

IF DAREDEVIL IS A LAW-ABIDING CITIZEN, INTERESTED IN THE CAUSE OF JUSTICE, HE SHOULD HAVE EVERY REASON--

--TO COME FORWARD SO AS TO RESOLVE THE MATTER AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

HOWEVER, IF HE DOES NOT COME FORWARD TOMORROW MORNING...

... THEN I'LL LET YOU PEOPLE DRAW YOUR OWN CONCLUSIONS.

THANK YOU.

YOU MUST BE LIVID. I KNOW I'M LIVID.

THE FACT THAT SHE'D DO SOMETHING LIKE THIS WITHOUT CONSULTING US... I'M SORRY, MATT. IT WAS A MISTAKE TO HIRE HER.

IT WASN'T A MISTAKE, DON'T BE SORRY, AND DON'T BE LIVID. WE ENCOURAGED HER TO TAKE INITIATIVE, SO SHE TOOK SOME. AFTER ALL, SINCE WHEN DO ATTORNEYS GET INVOLVED IN THE MECHANICS OF PROCESS SERVING?

THE FACT IS, IT'S A BRILLIANT MOVE. AND IF IT INVOLVED ANYONE OTHER THAN DAREDEVIL, YOU'D HAVE ALREADY SENT HER A BOUQUET OF FLOWERS.

NO, FOGGY, SHE DESERVES CONGRATULATIONS AND A SINCERE "ATTA-GIRL." FROM BOTH OF US.

OKAY...

SO: IS DAREDEVIL GOING TO SHOW UP TOMORROW AT TEN A.M.AND BE SERVED?

I DON'T SEE WHERE I HAVE MUCH CHOICE...

I'VE BEEN TO THE BRONX ZOO, THE CENTRAL PARK ZOO AND THE SAN FRANCISCO ZOO, BUT THEY ALL PALE IN COMPARISON TO THE MEDIA ZOO.

WILD ANIMALS IN THEIR NATURAL HABITAT, READY TO ENGAGE IN A TOTAL FEEDING FRENZY.

TEN BUCKS SAYS HE WON'T SHOW UP!

HE'D BETTER SHOW UP. I PROMISED MY SON I'D GET HIS AUTOGRAPH.

GOOD LUCK. YOU'D HAVE AN EASIER TIME GETTING THE ROCK'S AUTOGRAPH.

HANDS OFF OUR HEROES

DAREDEVIL FAN CLUB OF NEW YORK

D.D. WE ♡ U.

STOP THIS MISCARRIAGE OF JUSTICE

Sue the Devil

D.D IS THE GOOD GUY

OFF D.D.

CAUTION IS THE WATCH-WORD HERE... ONE OF MY ENEMIES MIGHT DECIDE THIS IS A GREAT OPPORTUNITY TO TAKE A SHOT AT ME... IN FACT, IT'S A PERFECT SETUP FOR THE JESTER TO STRIKE...

JUST BETWEEN YOU AND ME, LADY, YOU OUGHTA WRITE THIS OFF. IT'S A VOLATILE CROWD AND IF DAREDEVIL SHOWS UP, HE COULD START A RIOT.

YOU HAVE YOUR JOB TO DO, OFFICER, AND I HAVE MINE.

RIGHTS NOT MIGHT

TO DARE DEVILS

NO MORE HEROES ANY MORE

D.D. FOR PREZ

JUSTICE NOT LAWYERS

TRUE. BUT IF YOU EVER PULL A STUNT LIKE THIS AGAIN, YOU'D BETTER BRING YOUR OWN SECURITY.

TOO MANY PEOPLE. MY SENSES ARE OVER-WHELMED. DO I RISK GOING DOWN THERE?

HEROES NOT ZEROES

Sue the Devil

HANDS OFF D.D.

HEY LADY! HERE'S WHAT WE THINK OF YOUR LAWSUIT!

OFFICER, ARREST HIM!

WHAT, AND START A RIOT? NO THANKS, LADY!

LEAVE D.D. BE

MIGHT IS NOT RIGHT

D.D. DESERVES BETTER

HOW YOU GONNA SUE HIM NOW?

WRONG, LADY! YOU AND YOUR ***LAWYER BOSSES*** SHOULD BE ASHAMED OF YOURSELVES! HARASSING A HERO LIKE DAREDEVIL! HE GOT MY MOM OUT OF A BURNING BUILDING ONCE-- SAVED HER LIFE!

GET INSIDE, MISS. FOR YOUR OWN SAFETY.

YOU SHOULD BE ASHAMED OF YOURSELVES!

NRA FOR D.D.

NO POINT IN SHOWING UP NOW--

--IT'LL ONLY OBLIGATE ME TO SHOW UP AT NELSON& MURDOCK AND VOLUNTEER TO BE SERVED.

THE GOOD NEWS IS, PLENTY OF FOLKS ARE ON MY SIDE. AND IT LOOKS LIKE IT'S BOUGHT ME SOME TIME-- ELAINE'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO SERVE ME IN PUBLIC.

YAY, YAY, GO D D!

D.D. ♥ ME

IT WAS A PERFECT PLAN! I CAN'T BELIEVE THE NERVE OF PEOPLE!

ONCE THE CAMERAS COME OUT, PEOPLE WILL DO ANYTHING TO GET NOTICED.

DON'T BE UPSET, ELAINE. IT WAS A GOOD IDEA. A GREAT IDEA. WE'LL JUST HAVE TO COME UP WITH SOME-THING ELSE.

I'LL THINK OF SOMETHING. I KNOW I WILL...

FIRST, SEE WHAT YOU CAN DO ABOUT GETTING THE ELMDALE POLICE DEPARTMENT PHONE LOGS FROM THE NIGHT OF THE 8th, MORNING OF THE 9th. IT'LL BE GOOD TO PROVE THAT GRIGGS CALLED WHEN HE SAID HE DID.

I'VE ALREADY PUT IN THE REQUEST.

THANKS, FOGGY.

FOR WHAT?

FOR NOT SAYING, "*I TOLD YOU SO.*" I WONDER WHAT FURTHER INSANITY AWAITS US TOMORROW?

TOMORROW...

WHAT'S UP WITH THAT GUY?

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN: FOR THOSE WHO DO NOT KNOW ME, OR WHO HAVE PERHAPS FORGOTTEN, MY NAME IS JONATHAN POWERS, MORE COMMONLY KNOWN BY MY STAGE NAME: *THE JESTER!*

WHAT POSITION DO YA PLAY?

SID, YOU'D BETTER RECORD THIS. COULD BE NEWS.

I HAVE RETURNED TO THIS FAIR CITY AFTER A LENGTHY ENGAGEMENT AT SING SING PRISON... TO PROVIDE THE CITIZENS WITH MY UNIQUE BRAND OF ENTERTAINMENT. LET ME BEGIN BY PARAPHRASING THE BARD HIMSELF: *"TO BE OR NOT TO BE"*... ENGAGED IN CRIMINAL PURSUITS? THAT IS THE QUESTION.

FOR THE ANSWER, I HUMBLY INVITE YOU ALL TO THE OPENING OF MY LATEST PERFORMANCE. TOMORROW, AT TWO P.M. MATINEE, MERCHANT'S BANK OF MANHATTAN.

*AH, BUT **WHICH** BRANCH? FOR THERE ARE TWENTY-FOUR OF THEM. SO PERHAPS **THAT** IS THE QUESTION!*

*BUT REVEALING THE ANSWER NOW, MY FRIENDS-- **THAT** WOULD RUIN THE SURPRISE!*

HOWEVER, I WILL ENTICE YOU WITH A SMALL PREVIEW, HERE AND NOW, AS I DEBUT MY NEW COSTUME...

AND THIS... LITTLE TRIFLE...

IS IT A SIMPLE TOY... DESIGNED TO BRING JOY? OR SOMETHING MORE... TO EVEN A SCORE? PERHAPS TO BEDEVIL... A CERTAIN RED DEVIL?

MAN, THAT'S SOME FASTBALL!

SMASH

RIVERA, PAY ATTENTION HERE!

MetLife

AND NOW, I LEAVE YOU ALL WITH THIS MOST FITTING QUOTE FROM DISNEY'S CLASSIC PINOCCHIO...

... "HEY DIDDLE DEE-DEE, AN ACTOR'S LIFE FOR ME!"

THE JESTER'S AN ACTOR AND HE ANNOUNCES AN "*OPENING*," WHERE ELSE WOULD AN ACTOR WANT TO OPEN? ON BROADWAY.

AND THERE'S A MERCHANT BANK RIGHT IN THE HEART OF THE THEATER DISTRICT, BUT IT'S SO DAMNED OBVIOUS.

THAT'S PART OF JESTER'S M.O. HE CRAVES ATTENTION TO SUCH AN EXTENT THAT THE WORST THING HE COULD IMAGINE WOULD BE TO BE WITHOUT AN AUDIENCE.

YOU REALIZE IT'S GOTTA BE A TRAP.

BUT I'VE ALWAYS ESCAPED FROM HIS TRAPS BEFORE.

WE COULD JUST TIP OFF THE POLICE. LET THEM HANDLE IT.

NO, IT'S MORE IMPORTANT FOR DAREDEVIL TO HAVE A HIGH PROFILE RIGHT NOW...

"...SO DAREDEVIL WILL BE ATTENDING TOMORROW'S MATINEE."

BROADWAY

WALK

MERCY BAR

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN... THIS IS *NOT* A ROBBERY! IT'S A PERFORMANCE! A BRAVURA DEMONSTRATION OF MY MATCHLESS SKILL AS AN ACTOR.

AH, AH, YOU SIR, PLEASE-- NO GUNS. THEY'RE DANGEROUS, AND THEY COULD HURT SOMEONE. SAFETY FIRST!

NOW, LIKE ANY PROFESSIONAL ACTOR, I CRAVE NOT ONLY THE APPLAUSE OF MY PUBLIC, BUT PAYMENT FROM THEM AS WELL.

THEREFORE, I ENTREAT YOU ALL TO GIVE-- AS MUCH AS YOU CAN AFFORD--TO ME, HERE, IN THIS TILL...

... IN RETURN FOR WHICH, I HOPE TO PROVIDE YOU WITH A PLEASANT DIVERSION ON THIS LOVELY AFTERNOON.

KNOW THIS: I DO FROWN UPON FREELOADERS... IN THE PAST, I'VE BEEN KNOWN TO LOSE MY TEMPER AND PERHAPS OVERREACT.

OVERREACT-- BUT NEVER OVER-ACT.

GOOD... VERY GOOD.

AND THE TOOLS OF THIS PERFORMANCE-- ARE THEY TOYS? IS THIS A DAGGER I SEE BEFORE ME? ITS BLADE POISED TO DO IRREPARABLE HARM?

NO-- IT'S MERELY A PROP, DESIGNED TO SQUIRT HARMLESS, WATER SOLUBLE RED DYE!

BUT THIS-- IS THIS A BOMB I SEE BEFORE ME? FULL OF DEADLY NERVE GAS?

TICK TICK TICK

PERHAPS OUR BANK PRESIDENT WOULD SHARE THE STAGE WITH ME... AND PROVIDE ME WITH AN UNSECURED LOAN? IN RETURN FOR WHICH I MIGHT MAKE THIS INFERNAL TICKING STOP?

ALL RIGHT! JUST TURN OFF THE BOMB!

BANK

THANK YOU,ONE AND ALL, YOUNG AND OLD, FOR A MOST REWARDING AFTERNOON.

THE SHOW'S CLOSING, JESTER. AND YOU BOMBED.

IT'S... *FLOUR?!*

NOT YET. BUT I AM *ABOUT* TO BOMB... *YOU!* CATCH!

EXACTLY! I AM, LIKE YORICK, A FELLOW OF INFINITE JEST.

CATCH ME IF YOU CAN, DAREDEVIL!

ECTACULAR
York Times

ASTONISHINGLY SPECTACULAR
-Daily Bugle

WELL, YOU'VE CAUGHT ME, DAREDEVIL. JUST AS I PLANNED.

I HOPE YOU HAVE A GOOD LAWYER.

NOW, IN THE CASE OF GRIGGS VERSUS DAREDEVIL, CONSIDER YOURSELF *SERVED!*

DAREDEVIL 22

STAN LEE PRESENTS:

DAREDEVIL

PLAYING TO THE CAMERA PART THREE

LEGAL QUESTIONS

IN THE CASE OF GRIGGS VS. DAREDEVIL, CONSIDER YOURSELF *SERVED!*

I HOPE YOU HAVE A GOOD LAWYER.

WHAT?!

THAT'S RIGHT. I'VE BEEN ENGAGED BY THE FIRM OF NELSON AND MURDOCK SPECIFICALLY TO SERVE THESE PAPERS ON YOU.

TELL IT TO THE JUDGE.

OF COURSE WE LET HIM GO.

WHAT COULD WE CHARGE HIM WITH? MAKING AN ASS OF HIMSELF? IF WE COULD DO THAT, HALF THE CITY WOULD BE IN JAIL.

BUT HE THREATENED TO BLOW UP THE BANK! HE ROBBED IT -- AND THE CUSTOMERS!

NO. WE REVIEWED THE SECURITY TAPE. HE CLEARLY STATED IT WAS A PERFORMANCE, NOT A ROBBERY. HE *ASKED* THE CUSTOMERS TO GIVE HIM MONEY -- JUST LIKE HUNDREDS OF STREET PERFORMERS DO EVERY DAY.

HE MADE NO EXPLICIT THREATS, HAD NO WEAPONS OF ANY KIND -- JUST TOYS.

THEN HE ASKED THE BANK PRESIDENT FOR AN UNSECURED LOAN IN EXCHANGE FOR TURNING OFF A CLOCK, AND HE GOT IT. HE'S ACTUALLY OFFERED TO GIVE THE MONEY BACK, TOO -- A GESTURE OF GOOD FAITH, HE SAYS, TO PROVE THAT HIS INTENTIONS WERE ONLY TO DRAW YOU OUT.

MUCH AS I HATE TO SAY IT, DAREDEVIL, YOU WERE PLAYED THE FOOL.

I TRUST YOU ALL ENJOYED MY PERFORMANCE THIS AFTERNOON, WHICH SIGNIFIES THE OPENING OF MY NEW ENDEAVOR:

"JEST IN CASE."

I'M AVAILABLE TO PERFORM A VERITABLE PLETHORA OF VOCATIONS, FROM PROCESS SERVING TO PARTIES; FROM PERFORMANCE ART TO PRACTICAL JOKES.

SIMPLY LOG ON TO "WWW.JEST-IN-CASE.COM."

I LOOK FORWARD TO... SERVING YOU!

TAXI!

WE DON'T TAKE THIS LIGHTLY AT ALL, MISS KENDRICK.

WE THINK YOU'RE CROSSING A LINE WHEN YOU HIRE CRIMINALS IN THE NAME OF THIS FIRM.

BUT I DIDN'T HIRE A CRIMINAL! I HIRED AN EX-CONVICT --

-- A MAN WHO SERVED HIS TIME IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE LAW. AREN'T WE SUPPOSED TO GIVE PEOPLE LIKE HIM THE BENEFIT OF THE DOUBT? SET AN EXAMPLE? HELP THEM GET BACK INTO MAINSTREAM SOCIETY?

BESIDES, UNUSUAL CIRCUMSTANCES REQUIRE UNUSUAL MEASURES. THE DEFENDANT HAS BEEN SERVED, AND SERVED IN STYLE. I THINK WE'VE COME OUT OF THIS LOOKING DAMNED GOOD.

YOU'RE RIGHT, ELAINE.

SHAME ON US. MY APOLOGIES FOR COMING DOWN ON YOU LIKE THAT.

I LET MY PERSONAL PREJUDICES GET IN THE WAY OF CLEAR, LEGAL THINKING.

ER... ME TOO.

I PROMISE THAT IN THE FUTURE, I'LL COME TO YOU WHEN I'M CONSIDERING *"UNUSUAL MEASURES."*

I JUST WANTED TO PROVE MYSELF AFTER MY EARLIER FIASCO.

REMEMBER WHEN WE WERE YOUNG AND IDEALISTIC LIKE ELAINE?

ACTUALLY, IT'S NICE TO KNOW THAT WITH ALL THE CYNICISM IN SOCIETY, IDEALISM STILL LIVES.

EXCUSE ME, MR. NELSON, MR. MURDOCK. I'M TRANSCRIBING THIS TAPED STATEMENT FROM MR. GRIGGS AND HE SAYS... WELL, LISTEN...

... THEY DISAPPEARED, LIKE ETHEREAL SPIRITS INTO THE NIGHT...

WHAT IS THAT WORD, "ETHEREAL"? I COULDN'T FIND IT IN THE DICTIONARY -- "I-T-H..?

IT'S "E-T-H-E-R-E-A-L" AND IT MEANS "GHOSTLIKE."

OH. THANK YOU.

UH, EXCUSE ME FOR BARGING IN, BUT MY NAME'S TED WERTZ. I SAW THIS DAREDEVIL STUFF ON TV AND I THINK I'M A WITNESS.

Y'SEE, DAREDEVIL DAMAGED MY CAR LAST WEEK WHILE CHASING SOME BURGLARS.

MY WIFE WATCHES THE LAW SHOWS ON TV AND SHE SAYS IT "DEMONSTRATES A PATTERN OF BEHAVIOR," THAT WHEN DAREDEVIL GOES AFTER CROOKS, HE "NEGLIGENTLY DESTROYS PRIVATE PROPERTY."

SAME AS THIS GRIGGS THING.

EVERYBODY'S A LAWYER...

I FIGURED MY STORY MIGHT HELP YOU WITH YOUR CASE...AND MAYBE YOU COULD HELP ME GET MONEY FOR MY DAMAGES TOO.

I'LL TAKE YOUR STATEMENT IN MY OFFICE, MR. WERTZ. UH, YOU DIDN'T TALK TO THOSE REPORTERS OUTSIDE, DID YOU?

NO, SIR.

LET'S KEEP IT THAT WAY. THE LAST THING WE NEED IS SOMEONE ELSE PLAYING TO THE CAMERAS.

DAREDEVIL, WHEREVER YOU ARE, I'M CLAUDE UNGER AND I WANT TO BE YOUR ATTORNEY. NO CHARGE. PLEASE CALL ME.

CLICK

CLAUDE UNGER ASSOC. 0800-777 UNGR

SURE. WHEN HELL FREEZES OVER.

MY LAW FIRM, HUTCHINSON AND MACNAMARA IS READY, WILLING AND ABLE TO DEFEND YOU, DAREDEVIL. WE HAVE 23 LAWYERS ON STAFF, AND WE'RE EXPERTS IN ALL AREAS OF --

CLICK

0800 4725 HMAC

-- SOAKING CLIENTS DRY AND MAKING BACKROOM DEALS.

HOWDY, DAREDEVIL. I JUST HAVE FOUR WORDS TO SAY TO YOU: MEDWICK FOR THE DEFENSE.

CLICK

0800123LAW

AND I HAVE FOUR WORDS TO SAY TO YOU: NOT ON YOUR LIFE.

YOU'RE GONNA HAVE TO HIRE SOMEBODY, MATT. AND THERE *ARE* SOME DECENT ONES OUT THERE.

I KNOW. I'VE MADE A LIST.

QUESTION IS, HOW DECENT WILL THEY BE ONCE THE CAMERAS SHOW UP?

OF COURSE, IN ORDER TO DEFEND YOU, I'LL HAVE TO ASK YOU TO REVEAL YOUR IDENTITY...

... BUT JUST TO ME --

-- I'LL KEEP IT COMPLETELY CONFIDENTIAL...

... YOUR SECRET WILL BE ABSOLUTELY SAFE BECAUSE IT WILL FALL UNDER THE DOCTRINE OF ATTORNEY-CLIENT PRIVILEGE...

EXCUSE ME? YOU WANT *ME* TO REPRESENT YOU? ARE YOU SERIOUS? WHEN YOU CAN HAVE YOUR PICK OF ALL THE BIG BOYS?

THIS IS A GOOD SIGN.

SHE'S ACTUALLY SKEPTICAL I'D WANT TO HIRE HER.

I CHECKED YOU OUT.

YOU HAVE STANDARDS. YOU'RE PICKY ABOUT YOUR CLIENTS, AND ABOUT THE CASES YOU TAKE. YOU SEEM TO ME TO BE ONE OF THE GOOD GUYS.

AND HERE I THOUGHT NOBODY NOTICED.

THE TRUTH IS, I'M NOT SUPPOSED TO LIKE YOU -- YOU'RE A VIGILANTE, YOU OPERATE IN SECRET, OUTSIDE THE LAWS I'VE SWORN TO UPHOLD.

BUT I LIKE HEROES. I THINK SOCIETY NEEDS THEM. AND YOU SEEM TO ME TO BE ONE OF THE GOOD GUYS. SO, I'D CONSIDER IT A GREAT HONOR TO REPRESENT YOU.

THANK YOU.

BUT FIRST, I NEED TO ASK YOU A VERY IMPORTANT QUESTION.

A QUESTION THAT COULD MAKE THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN MY TAKING YOU ON OR NOT.

UH-OH. HERE IT COMES. "DO YOU TRUST ME ENOUGH TO REVEAL YOUR IDENTITY?" DAMN. MAYBE I WAS WRONG ABOUT HER...

I CHARGE $250 PER HOUR. HOW ARE YOU GOING TO PAY ME?

EXCUSE ME, I THOUGHT YOU WERE GOING TO ASK ME SOMETHING ELSE.

SORRY TO BE SO CRASS.

BUT NEW YORK'S EXPENSIVE, MY TIME IS VALUABLE, I'VE GOT STAFF TO PAY, AND FRANKLY, I'M NOT SURE YOU CAN AFFORD ME SINCE I DON'T KNOW HOW MUCH YOU CAN EARN FIGHTING CRIME IN RED SPANDEX.

WHAT ARE YOU SMILING ABOUT?

YOUR DIRECTNESS IS REFRESHING.

YOU STILL HAVEN'T ANSWERED MY QUESTION. I ASSUME YOU DON'T HAVE A CHECKING ACCOUNT IN THE NAME OF "DAREDEVIL," OR A CREDIT CARD...

HOW ABOUT CASH?

FINE.

NORMALLY, I'D HAVE YOU FILL OUT A CLIENT FORM, BUT, OTHER THAN *"NAME,"* I DOUBT THERE'S A SINGLE THING YOU'D CARE TO ANSWER.

ADDRESS -- SOCIAL SECURITY -- DRIVER'S LICENSE -- NO WAY, RIGHT?

RIGHT.

NO PROBLEM. I TRUST YOU. AND I PROMISE I WON'T ASK YOU TO DO ANYTHING THAT WOULD JEOPARDIZE YOUR IDENTITY.

IN LIEU OF A SIGNATURE ON A FORM, I'LL SETTLE FOR A HANDSHAKE.

WAIT.

BOTTOM LINE: I DIDN'T DO IT, BUT I CAN'T PROVE IT. I WAS ASLEEP AT THE TIME. ALL I CAN FIGURE IS THERE'S SOMEONE OUT THERE IMPERSONATING ME.

NO WITNESSES TO YOUR BEING ASLEEP?

NO.

SO YOU'RE NOT MARRIED...

NO.

AND YOU DON'T HAVE A... RELATIONSHIP...?

I'M SORRY, THAT'S NONE OF MY BUSINESS.

THE MORE YOU KNOW, THE BETTER TO DEFEND ME, RIGHT?

RIGHT.

NO, I'M NOT INVOLVED IN A RELATIONSHIP.

GOOD.

OH, I DIDN'T MEAN THAT -- I MEANT, IT'S GOOD THAT YOU FEEL COMFORTABLE ANSWERING MY QUESTIONS...

THE FLUTTERING HEARTBEAT?

I KNOW EXACTLY WHAT SHE MEANT.

SO...

SINCE YOU HAVE NO ALIBI, OUR ONLY COURSE OF ACTION IS TO ESTABLISH REASONABLE DOUBT.

WHAT?

IT'S STRANGE. WITH NO WITNESSES, IT BOILS DOWN TO HIS WORD AGAINST YOURS. THAT'S RARELY ENOUGH TO MAKE A CASE. SO THE FACT THAT AN ATTORNEY LIKE MATT MURDOCK WOULD TAKE THIS CASE SUGGESTS THERE'S SOMETHING ELSE.

SOMETHING HE KNOWS THAT WE DON'T...

SHE'S SHARP. MAYBE TOO SHARP...

MAYBE A SURPRISE WITNESS...

BUT DON'T WE HAVE THE RIGHT TO DISCOVERY?

THEN YOU KNOW SOMETHING ABOUT LAWSUITS...?

IS IT POSSIBLE THAT GRIGGS OR A FRIEND OF HIS WAS INVOLVED IN A CRIME THAT YOU THWARTED? THAT HE CONCOCTED ALL THIS BECAUSE HE BLAMES YOU FOR SOME MISFORTUNE TO SOMEONE HE'S CLOSE TO?

IT IS POSSIBLE, BUT I CAN'T IMAGINE WHO THAT SOMEONE MIGHT BE.

IT'S A PLACE TO START. I'LL NEED A LIST OF ALL THE CRIMINALS YOU'VE APPREHENDED IN THE PAST SEVERAL YEARS...

THAT COULD TAKE AWHILE.

CAREFUL, MATT. YOU DON'T WANT TO SOUND TOO KNOWLEDGEABLE, OR SHE MIGHT SUSPECT...

SURE, I'VE WATCHED THOSE LAW SHOWS ON TV...

RIGHT -- EVERYONE'S A LAWYER THESE DAYS.

BRAD, RENE, I WANT YOU TO MEET OUR LATEST CLIENT.

DAREDEVIL, MEET BRAD AND RENE. THEY COVER EVERYTHING FROM INVESTIGATIONS TO GETTING MY COFFEE.

P- PLEASED TO MEET YOU.

LIKEWISE.

BOTH OF YOU -- I WANT ALL COURT AND POLICE RECORDS WHERE DAREDEVIL WAS INVOLVED, GOING BACK FOUR MONTHS. AND ALL NEWSPAPER ARTICLES ON SAMUEL GRIGGS.

THAT'LL HAVE TO DO UNTIL I GET COPIES OF THE COMPLAINT AND STATEMENTS. UNLESS YOU CAN FIND THIS IMPOSTOR.

SO HOW DO I GET IN TOUCH WITH YOU? PHONE NUMBER? POST OFFICE BOX?

E-MAIL?

SMOKE SIGNALS?

MATT MURDOCK'S BEEPER NUMBER IS ENTIRELY OUT OF THE QUESTION.

I'LL THINK OF SOMETHING AND LET YOU KNOW.

UH -- DAREDEVIL? THAT *IS* WHAT I'M SUPPOSED TO CALL YOU, RIGHT?

RIGHT.

YOU KNOW THIS CASE IS ALREADY A MEDIA CIRCUS. YOU CAN'T TALK TO THE PRESS. ALL QUESTIONS SHOULD BE REFERRED TO ME. IN FACT, LET'S CALL A PRESS CONFERENCE --

-- SAY, TOMORROW AT TWO, UP ON OUR ROOF GARDEN. IT WILL GET US ON THE EVENING NEWS. AND I'LL DO THE TALKING.

MS. VINOKUR, WILL YOU BE REPRESENTING ANY OTHER SUPER HEROES?

OR SUPER VILLAINS?

NO ONE'S ASKED ME. I SUPPOSE IT DEPENDS ON WHETHER I WIN THIS CASE.

DAREDEVIL, WILL YOU BE FORCED TO REVEAL YOUR IDENTITY IN COURT?

THAT'S A MATTER OF COMPLETE CONJECTURE. WE DON'T KNOW IF THIS CASE WILL EVEN GET TO COURT.

DAREDEVIL, WILL YOU BE SUSPENDING YOUR CRIME-FIGHTING WHILE THIS CASE IS PENDING?

DAREDEVIL?

NO. I INTEND TO BE AS AGGRESSIVE AS EVER IN WORKING TO KEEP THE CITY STREETS SAFE.

DO YOU INTEND TO BE MORE CAREFUL ABOUT DAMAGING PROPERTY?

WE HAVE YET TO SEE SPECIFIC EVIDENCE THAT PROVES MY CLIENT IS GUILTY OF ANY PROPERTY DAMAGE.

CLANG CLANG

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN OF THE PRESS, PLEASE EXCUSE ME.

OOOA

IT'S COME TO MY ATTENTION THAT A CRIME MAY BE IN PROGRESS OVER ON THE NEXT BLOCK...

I SURE KNOW WHAT THAT SOUND IS --

-- A STARK PRO-TEK BURGLAR ALARM.

AWWOOOOA

AND IT'S COMING FROM THIS BUILDING...

CRASH!

HAVEN'T YOU HEARD? BREAKING AND ENTERING'S AGAINST THE...

WWOOOOAHHHWWWWOO

... LAW?

EXCUSE ME. I HEARD THE BURGLAR ALARM AND THOUGHT --

THIS IS NO ROBBERY, DAREDEVIL. IT'S A TEST OF SOME NEW SONIC TECHNOLOGY DESIGNED TO MAKE THE WORLD A LITTLE QUIETER.

I'D HAVE TO SAY YOUR TEST IS A FAILURE.

IT'S JUST GETTING STARTED.

THIS IS A PCD -- A PHASE CANCELLATION DEVICE. THE CHIP WITHIN IDENTIFIES INCOMING FREQUENCIES OF A PARTICULAR SOUND, AND RESPONDS WITH SYMPATHETIC FREQUENCIES DESIGNED TO CANCEL OUT THOSE SOUNDS.

AWWOOOOAHHH!

STARK

STARK

IMAGINE SUCH UNITS ON AIRPLANES, CANCELING OUT JET ENGINE NOISE, OR IN FACTORIES CANCELING OUT THE SOUNDS OF HEAVY MACHINERY.

OR ON SKYLIGHTS --

--CANCELING OUT THE SOUND OF BROKEN GLASS.

UH -- I APOLOGIZE. MY FAULT. AND I'LL PAY FOR THE DAMAGES.

YOU CAN REACH ME THROUGH MY ATTORNEY, KATE VINOKUR.

WHAT HAPPENED? WAS THERE A ROBBERY? DID DAREDEVIL CATCH THE PERP?

FASCINATING TECHNOLOGY, EVERYBODY. KEEP UP THE GOOD FIGHT.

YOU TOO, DAREDEVIL.

DAMN. I'M IN SUCH A HURRY TO PROVE I'M A HERO THAT I'M GETTING SLOPPY.

THIS WON'T PLAY WELL ON THE EVENING NEWS.

NEWS TALK

J. JONAH JAMESON

CLAUDE UNGER

THE GRIGGS CASE, AND NOW TODAY'S INCIDENT INVOLVING DAREDEVIL, BEG THE QUESTION: SHOULD SUPER HEROES BE RESPONSIBLE FOR DAMAGE THEY CAUSE IN PURSUIT OF CRIMINALS?

OF COURSE! AFTER ALL, THE POLICE ARE HELD RESPONSIBLE FOR UNINTENTIONAL DAMAGE THAT THEY MIGHT DO, FOR EXAMPLE, DURING A HIGH SPEED CHASE.

NO, THE POLICE *DEPARTMENT*, WHICH IS AN ENTITY OF THE CITY, IS RESPONSIBLE -- WHICH MAKES THE CITY RESPONSIBLE.

HOWEVER, THE N.Y.P.D. AND THE CITY HAVE INSURANCE FOR THESE THINGS. INSURANCE WHICH DOES *NOT* INCLUDE SO-CALLED SUPER HEROES, WHO CONTINUE TO BE A MENACE TO EVERY LAW-ABIDING CITIZEN.

LOOK, THIS WHOLE CASE IS RIDICULOUS. CITIZENS SHOULD BE RESPONSIBLE FOR INSURING THEMSELVES. IF YOU LIVE IN LOS ANGELES , YOU NEED EARTHQUAKE INSURANCE. IF YOU LIVE IN FLORIDA, YOU NEED HURRICANE INSURANCE. AND IF YOU LIVE IN NEW YORK, YOU NEED SUPER HERO/SUPER VILLAIN INSURANCE.

EARTHQUAKES AND HURRICANES ARE ACTS OF NATURE. WHAT THE SPANDEX CROWD DOES ARE ACTS OF IRRESPONSIBLE HUMAN BEINGS.

NOT NECESSARILY. THE FANTASTIC FOUR GOT THEIR POWERS FROM COSMIC RAYS -- AN ACT OF NATURE. SO IF THE HUMAN TORCH ACCIDENTALLY BURNS A HOUSE DOWN, IT COULD LEGALLY BE CONSIDERED AN ACT OF NATURE.

THAT'S AN IDIOTIC ARGUMENT ONLY A LAWYER COULD MAKE.

YOU KNOW, I'VE NEVER CHECKED: DO THE MAJOR INSURANCE CARRIERS OFFER SUPER-POWERS INSURANCE?

HA. MAYBE THE GRIGGS LAWSUIT IS A PLOT BY THE INSURANCE COMPANIES TO MAKE THE PUBLIC AWARE OF THESE RISKS -- SO THEY CAN MARKET SUCH POLICIES.

SURE, JOKE ABOUT IT, BUT TODAY'S INCIDENT PROVES WHAT I'VE BEEN SAYING FOR YEARS: WE NEED TO KEEP THESE MASKED VIGILANTES IN CHECK. IF NOT FOR THIS LAWSUIT, DO YOU THINK DAREDEVIL WOULD HAVE OFFERED TO PAY DAMAGES TODAY? FURTHERMORE, CAN YOU SHOW ME A *"SUPER HERO"* WHO HAS LIABILITY INSURANCE? CAN YOU SHOW ME AN UNDERWRITER WHO'D BE WILLING TO INSURE ONE OF THESE COSTUMED SHOWBOATS? NO, NO, AND NO. FACTS WHICH DEMONSTRATE THAT, LIKE SPIDER-MAN, DAREDEVIL IS A MENACE. AND I EXPECT MATT MURDOCK WILL PROVE THAT IN COURT.

ONCE AGAIN, WE'RE DISCUSSING THE LATEST INCIDENT OF PROPERTY DAMAGE BY DAREDEVIL. WE'LL BE RIGHT BACK...

NICE PLAY, MATT. AS DAREDEVIL, YOU'RE GONNA HELP GRIGGS WIN THIS CASE.

IT WAS AN ACCIDENT!

AN ACCIDENT THAT MAKES DD LOOK LIKE A BUMBLER. AND THE LONGER THIS LAWSUIT DRAGS OUT, THE MORE THIS WILL BE A CONSTANT PART OF THE MEDIA CULTURE.

BY THE TIME DD GETS HIS DAY IN COURT, HIS PUBLIC IMAGE WILL BE SHOT.

WHAT DO YOU SUGGEST I DO? HANG UP MY COSTUME UNTIL THE CASE COMES TO TRIAL?

NO. WE HAVE TO GET GRIGGS TO AGREE TO A SETTLEMENT.

THAT'LL TURN OFF THE MEDIA, AND ALLOW YOU TO INVESTIGATE THE SITUATION ON YOUR OWN.

GRIGGS IS TOO SELF-RIGHTEOUS. HE'LL NEVER AGREE TO A SETTLEMENT.

NOT IF *WE* SUGGEST IT. BUT IF THE PROPOSAL COMES FROM DAREDEVIL'S LAWYER, HE MIGHT.

FOGGY, I CAN'T SUDDENLY GO TO KATE AND TELL HER I WANT TO SETTLE. WHAT WOULD SHE THINK OF ME?

PROBABLY THAT YOU'RE SMART.

ALL DEFENSE ATTORNEYS KNOW THAT INNOCENT MEN DON'T PROPOSE SETTLEMENTS. SHE'D SMELL A RAT. SHE MIGHT EVEN SUSPECT DAREDEVIL IS A LAWYER.

AND THE LAST THING I NEED IS SOMEONE ELSE LEARNING MY IDENTITY. THAT KNOWLEDGE CARRIES A CURSE. KAREN'S DEAD, ELEKTRA PAID A TERRIBLE PRICE, KINGPIN'S BLIND, NATASHA SUFFERED FOR IT AND YOU'VE GONE THROUGH HELL.

OKAY. BUT IF KATE'S ANY GOOD, SHE'LL TRY TO CONVINCE YOU TO SETTLE.

SO OUR JOB IS TO PROVIDE HER WITH ENOUGH INFORMATION TO MAKE SURE SHE DOES.

THE QUESTION WAS "*HOW DO I GET IN TOUCH WITH YOU?*" THE ANSWER IS...

HERE'S THE NUMBER. PLEASE KEEP IT CONFIDENTIAL.

IT'S REGISTERED TO THE AVENGERS, SO I DON'T HAVE TO WORRY IF SOMEONE TRIES TO TRACE IT.

I'LL MEMORIZE IT AND THEN SWALLOW IT, IF IT'LL MAKE YOU FEEL MORE COMFORTABLE.

WELL... IF YOU'RE *REALLY* HUNGRY...

NELSON SENT OVER THIS STATEMENT FROM A TED WERTZ. DID YOU DAMAGE HIS CAR?

UH... I DON'T KNOW. IT'S POSSIBLE.

IT'S "*POSSIBLE?*" OR YOU DID?

I WAS CHASING SOME BANK ROBBERS. IN APPREHENDING THEM, I JUMPED ON A CAR OR TWO. WAS IT WERTZ'S CAR? I DON'T KNOW. DID I DO DAMAGE? I DON'T KNOW.

DAREDEVIL, YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE DEFENSIVE WITH ME. I'M ON YOUR SIDE. I JUST NEED TO KNOW THE FACTS.

SHE'S RIGHT. SHE'S BEING A GOOD ATTORNEY, AND HERE I'M WORRYING ABOUT DISAPPOINTING HER. CONCERNED THAT SHE WON'T THINK I'M A HERO...

YES. I DAMAGED HIS CAR.

DID YOU MAKE ANY EFFORT TO CONTACT WERTZ, TAKE CARE OF HIS DAMAGES?

I DIDN'T HAVE THE TIME. I HAD TO BE IN COURT AS MATT MURDOCK.

NO.

YOU'RE RIGHT. I NEED TO HANDLE THAT.

LET ME.

NO, I CAN CONTACT --

I'M YOUR ATTORNEY. I'M SUPPOSED TO DO THINGS LIKE THIS.

YOU NEED SOMEONE TO TAKE CARE OF THINGS LIKE THIS FOR YOU...

SO YOU CAN BE OUT THERE FIGHTING CRIME.

PLEASE, LET ME DO THIS.

NO CHARGE.

OKAY.

UH, DO YOU HAVE ANY COFFEE HERE?

LET ME BE STRAIGHT WITH YOU. IF WE GO TO TRIAL, YOU'RE GOING TO BE CROSS-EXAMINED. IT'S GONNA GET UGLY. IF YOU ANSWER THE QUESTIONS, YOU RUN THE RISK OF JEOPARDIZING YOUR IDENTITY. IF YOU PLEAD THE FIFTH AMENDMENT, IT WILL ONLY SERVE TO MAKE YOU LOOK GUILTY.

DAMNED IF I DO, DAMNED IF I DON'T.

EXACTLY. THERE IS, HOWEVER, A THIRD OPTION. A SETTLEMENT.

TIME TO PLAY IGNORANT.

WHY WOULD WE WANT TO SETTLE?

TO KEEP FROM GOING TO COURT.

CONTRARY TO PUBLIC PERCEPTION, THE LAST PLACE ANY LAWYER WANTS TO BE IS IN COURT.

... AND I JUST SERVED HIM A LATTE!

BUT I'M INNOCENT. I WANT EVERYONE TO KNOW I'M INNOCENT. AND IF I SETTLE, ISN'T THAT THE SAME AS ADMITTING GUILT?

NO. THERE NEEDN'T BE ANY ADMISSION OF GUILT. WE'D SPIN IT TO YOUR ADVANTAGE.

WE LAWYERS HAVE A SAYING, *"A BAD SETTLEMENT IS BETTER THAN A GOOD LAWSUIT."*

EXAMPLE: IF BILL CLINTON HAD SETTLED THE PAULA JONES CASE RIGHT WAY, NO ONE WOULD HAVE EVER HEARD OF MONICA LEWINSKY.

NO, YOU MAY *NOT* FEEL HIS MUSCLES.

WITH YOUR PERMISSION, I'D LIKE TO HAVE A CONVERSATION WITH MURDOCK AND NELSON, TO FIND OUT IF GRIGGS WOULD CONSIDER A SETTLEMENT.

I'M NOT SAYING *WE'D* SETTLE, I JUST WANT TO ASK THE QUESTION. THERE'S NO DOWNSIDE, NO ONE NEEDS TO KNOW. I JUST WANT YOUR BLESSING.

ALL RIGHT.

I'LL BE IN TOUCH.

...

MR. GRIGGS? FRANKLIN NELSON. WE HAVE WHAT I CONSIDER TO BE SOME VERY GOOD NEWS. I JUST SPOKE TO DAREDEVIL'S ATTORNEY, AND THEY'RE WILLING TO TALK SETTLEMENT.

IN OTHER WORDS, ASSUMING WE PLAY THIS RIGHT, YOU'VE WON.

GRIGGS WILL SETTLE FOR $50,000 IN DAMAGES TO HIS GREENHOUSE, PLUS EQUAL THAT IN PUNITIVE DAMAGES, WHICH HE WILL TURN OVER TO CHARITY.

AND A PERSONAL APOLOGY.

IF YOU CAN AFFORD IT, IT'S AN ATTRACTIVE PACKAGE.

GOTTA PLAY THIS COOL. CAN'T SEEM TOO EAGER. BESIDES, FOGGY HANDLED THIS AND I HAVEN'T EVEN HAD A CHANCE TO DISCUSS IT WITH HIM... AND THIS APOLOGY ANGLE IS A NEW WRINKLE.

I'M NOT IN THE HABIT OF APOLOGIZING FOR THINGS I DIDN'T DO.

YOU'RE NOT IN THE HABIT OF BEING SUED EITHER.

BUT GIVEN THE CHOICE, I'D CHOOSE THE APOLOGY. ESPECIALLY SINCE NELSON SAYS IT CAN BE DONE IN PRIVATE, NO CAMERAS.

I NEED TO THINK ABOUT IT...

DON'T TAKE TOO LONG. I PROMISED NELSON AN ANSWER IN TWENTY-FOUR HOURS.

GRIGGS INSISTED ON THE APOLOGY, MATT.

I COULDN'T TALK HIM OUT OF IT.

BUT I DID TALK HIM OUT OF A PUBLIC APOLOGY, WHICH IS WHAT HE WANTED. I TOLD HIM IT WAS A MATTER BETWEEN HONORABLE MEN, AND A PUBLIC APOLOGY WOULD SMACK OF HUMILIATION.

YOU'RE A FINE ATTORNEY, NELSON. I'D HIRE YOU MYSELF.

TAKE THE DEAL, MATT.

QUICK, COME IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM! GRIGGS IS ON TV!

... RATHER THAN BOG DOWN THE COURT SYSTEM WITH MY PERSONAL PROBLEMS, I AM PREPARED TO OFFER A SETTLEMENT TO DAREDEVIL, AS FOLLOWS:

SMLRCI·CO

DAREDEVIL WILL PAY ME $50,000 TO COVER MY SPECIFIC PROPERTY DAMAGES. DAREDEVIL WILL PAY ME AN ADDITIONAL $50,000 PUNITIVE DAMAGES WHICH I SHALL IMMEDIATELY DONATE TO THE CRIPPLED CHILDREN'S SOCIETY.

DAREDEVIL WILL DO THIS IN A PUBLIC FORUM, WHERE HE WILL PERSONALLY APOLOGIZE TO ME BEFORE THE WORLD FOR HIS RECKLESS AND IRRESPONSIBLE BEHAVIOR, AT WHICH TIME, I SHALL DROP THE LAWSUIT.

DO IT FOR THE CHILDREN, DAREDEVIL. THANK YOU.

DAMN HIM! HE WASN'T SUPPOSED TO GO PUBLIC! AND THAT'S NOT THE DEAL!

A BRILLIANT LOSE-LOSE SCENARIO. IF DAREDEVIL TURNS IT DOWN, IT GETS SPUN TO LOOK LIKE HE CARES NOTHING ABOUT CRIPPLED CHILDREN. BUT IF DAREDEVIL AGREES, HE HAS TO ADMIT HE'S GUILTY.

WE SHOULD RESIGN IS WHAT WE SHOULD DO. HE'S A LOOSE CANNON. GET HIM IN COURT, THERE'S NO TELLING WHAT HE'LL DO.

ETHICALLY, YES, WE SHOULD RESIGN.

BUT WE'LL LOOK LIKE IDIOTS -- THE LAWYERS WHO CAN'T CONTROL THEIR CLIENTS; THE LAWYERS WHO TURN AGAINST THEIR CLIENTS. WHO'D WANT TO HIRE US IF WE RESIGNED NOW?

ANGELA, GET MR. GRIGGS ON THE PHONE.

I'LL TELL YOU WHY I DID IT, NELSON.

BECAUSE AN HOUR AGO I SUDDENLY REALIZED IT WAS THE RIGHT THING TO DO -- TO FORCE DAREDEVIL'S HAND.

DAMMIT, GRIGGS, *WE'RE* SUPPOSED TO HANDLE THIS. HOW ARE WE SUPPOSED TO REPRESENT YOU IF YOU RUN OUT IN PUBLIC MAKING INCENDIARY STATEMENTS?

WE DON'T EVEN KNOW IF THE OFFER'S BEEN PRESENTED TO DAREDEVIL.

WE KNOW NOW.

IT'LL BE ALL OVER THE NEWS. AND HE'LL *HAVE* TO RESPOND. BESIDES, I DECIDED I WANTED THE PUBLIC APOLOGY AFTER ALL.

RIGHT IS RIGHT. I'M RIGHT AND I WANT THE WORLD TO KNOW IT.

WHAT ARE WE GONNA DO?

I'M GONNA TALK TO MY LAWYER.

BEEP BEEP

KATE

AND OBVIOUSLY, SHE WANTS TO TALK TO ME.

I'M SO SORRY. I'VE RUINED THIS FOR YOU.

I'VE DONE A TERRIBLE JOB. I HAVE TO RESIGN FROM THIS CASE.

STOP.

NO ONE'S ASKING YOU TO RESIGN.

BUT IF I HADN'T PROPOSED A SETTLEMENT, NONE OF THIS WOULD HAVE HAPPENED. NOW YOU *HAVE* TO SETTLE.

IF YOU DON'T, THE MEDIA WILL SAY YOU'RE TURNING YOUR BACK ON THOSE CRIPPLED CHILDREN.

SLOW DOWN, KATE. FIRST OF ALL, I HAVE NO REGRETS ABOUT HIRING YOU.

YOUR ADVICE AND YOUR ACTIONS HAVE BEEN FIRST CLASS.

HOW WOULD YOU KNOW? YOU'RE NOT A LAWYER. YOU'D HAVE BEEN SO MUCH BETTER OFF WITH CLAUDE UNGER.

NO. UNGER IS A SLEAZEBAG.

I KNOW, BUT...

I CHOSE YOU. AND I STILL WANT YOU.

REALLY?

REALLY.

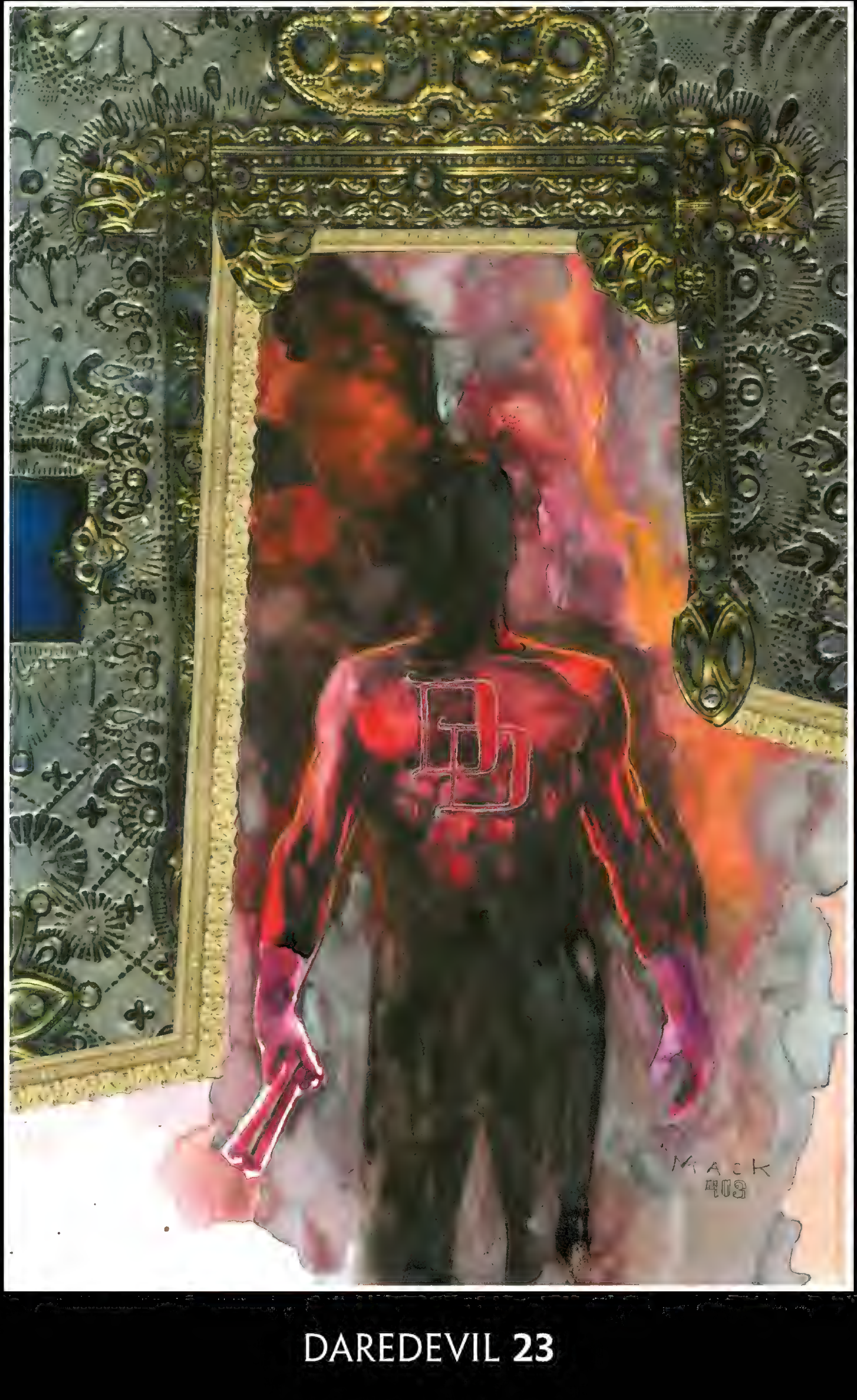
BUT YOU DON'T NEED ME ANY MORE. ONCE YOU PAY OFF GRIGGS, ALL OF THIS GOES AWAY.

I HAVEN'T DECIDED TO PAY HIM OFF YET. MAYBE THERE'S ANOTHER WAY OUT. LET'S STALL -- WHEN THE PRESS SHOWS UP, JUST SAY THAT YOU HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO DISCUSS IT WITH ME YET.

ALL RIGHT. BUT WHAT ARE YOU GONNA DO?

WHEN I CAN ANSWER THAT...

... YOU'LL BE THE FIRST TO KNOW.



DAREDEVIL 23

YESTERDAY, SAMUEL GRIGGS OFFERED TO DROP HIS LAWSUIT AGAINST DAREDEVIL FOR $50,000 IN DAMAGES, AN APOLOGY AND A $50,000 DONATION TO THE CRIPPLED CHILDREN'S SOCIETY.

DAREDEVIL ON TRIAL

DO IT FOR THE CHILDREN, DAREDEVIL.

EARLIER TODAY WE HAD A STATEMENT FROM DAREDEVIL'S ATTORNEY...

MY CLIENT IS CONSIDERING HIS OPTIONS. WE'LL HAVE A PUBLIC RESPONSE AT THREE O'CLOCK.

ARE YOU ADVISING HIM TO ACCEPT THE OFFER?

WE'LL MAKE A PUBLIC RESPONSE AT THREE.

DO YOU KNOW DAREDEVIL'S TRUE IDENTITY?

TO ME, DAREDEVIL IS HIS TRUE IDENTITY.

GRIGGS' OFFER BEGS THE QUESTION: CAN DAREDEVIL AFFORD A $100,000 SETTLEMENT? OBVIOUSLY NO ONE KNOWS WHO DAREDEVIL IS OR WHERE HE GETS HIS MONEY -- OR IF HE EVEN **HAS** ANY MONEY.

BUT WMVL HAS OBTAINED THIS EXCLUSIVE HOME VIDEO FOOTAGE FROM TOURIST TIM LAGO, SHOWING WHAT APPEARS TO BE DAREDEVIL ENTERING THE WAKANDAN EMBASSY.

WAKANDA HAS SOLID FINANCIAL RESOURCES, SO DAREDEVIL MAY HAVE BEEN DISCUSSING A LOAN. EARLIER, I INQUIRED.

WAS DAREDEVIL HERE TO DISCUSS A LOAN?

NO COMMENT.

CAN YOU AT LEAST TELL US IF DAREDEVIL WAS HERE TODAY?

NO COMMENT.

STAN LEE PRESENTS:

DAREDEVIL

PLAYING TO THE CAMERA PART FOUR

MAKING OFFERS

MR. GRIGGS IS MISTAKEN IN HIS BELIEF THAT I AM RESPONSIBLE FOR THE DESTRUCTION OF HIS GREENHOUSE. I AM NOT, NOR DO I HAVE ANY IDEA WHO IS.

I RESENT MR. GRIGGS' ATTEMPT TO MANIPULATE PUBLIC OPINION AND USE HANDICAPPED CHILDREN IN A SHAMELESS ATTEMPT TO EXTORT ME.

UNLIKE MR. GRIGGS, I AM NOT A WEALTHY MAN. BUT SO THERE WILL BE NO MISTAKE AS TO MY INTENTIONS OR MY CHARACTER, I HAVE SECURED PLEDGES FROM FRIENDS AND INSTITUTIONS FOR DONATIONS TO THE CHILDREN'S AUTISM FOUNDATION TOTALING OVER $100,000, TO BE GIVEN IF AND WHEN MR. GRIGGS DROPS HIS LAW-SUIT.

I WILL NOT PAY ONE PENNY TO MR. GRIGGS, NOR WILL I APOLOGIZE FOR SOMETHING I DID NOT DO. HE CAN TRY TO PROVE HIS CASE IN COURT -- OR HE AN COME TO HIS SENSES AND DROP THE MATTER.

DO IT FOR THE CHILDREN, MR. GRIGGS.

IF YOU DIDN'T DO IT, ARE YOU SAYING THERE'S A DAREDEVIL IMPERSONATOR ON THE LOOSE?

SOUNDS LIKE A LOGICAL EXPLANATION TO ME.

YES, I SAW IT ALREADY, HE PLAYED IT BEAUTIFULLY, AND NOW WE'RE IN A CORNER.

DROP THE CASE, GRIGGS. IT'S THE CLEANEST WAY OUT.

NO! NOT ON HIS TERMS -- AND NOT WITHOUT AN APOLOGY! PEOPLE WILL SAY I MADE THE WHOLE THING UP! I'LL LOOK LIKE A FOOL!

COULD BE YOU'LL LOOK LIKE ONE ANYWAY. AND SO WILL WE.

IF YOU PULL OUT OF THIS CASE, I GUARANTEE I'LL MAKE *YOU TWO* LOOK LIKE THE FOOLS! PLUS NO MONEY FOR THE BLIND KIDS!

LOOK, GRIGGS, THIS "*DAREDEVIL IMPOSTOR*" ANGLE IS A GOOD WAY FOR YOU TO SAVE FACE. I SUGGEST YOU GO WITH THAT.

ESPECIALLY SINCE AFTER WHAT'S ALREADY GONE DOWN, YOU'LL HAVE A HARD TIME GETTING ANOTHER ATTORNEY TO SIGN ON FOR THIS.

WITH ENOUGH MONEY, ANYTHING IS POSSIBLE. BUT JUST TO SHOW YOU THAT MY HEART IS IN THE RIGHT PLACE, I'LL DOUBLE MY DONATION TO THE BLIND KIDS.

NOW: I WANT A TRIAL. NOTHING LESS. ARE YOU IN OR ARE YOU OUT?

OFF THE RECORD, WE MAY HAVE MADE A MISTAKE TAKING THIS CASE, AND ANOTHER BY NOT DROPPING IT. BUT I DO HAVE CERTAIN PERSONAL REASONS WHY I'VE STUCK WITH IT.

$100,000 TO THE FOUNDATION FOR THE JUNIOR BLIND.

WHICH HAS JUST BECOME $200,000. THAT SAID, I HAVE A VERY BULLHEADED CLIENT WHO WANTS THIS CASE TRIED, COME HELL OR HIGH WATER. PERSONALLY, I'D LIKE TO GET IT OVER WITH.

FROM WHERE I SIT, IT'S MY CLIENT'S WORD AGAINST YOUR CLIENT'S WORD.

THERE ARE NO OTHER WITNESSES, AND NO HARD EVIDENCE ON EITHER SIDE. WE'VE GOT A MEDIA ZOO AND A HUGE ASPIRIN BILL.

I SUGGEST WE JOINTLY PETITION FOR AN EARLY TRIAL DATE, DUE TO EXTENUATING CIRCUMSTANCES.

WILL YOUR CLIENT AGREE TO SUMMARY JUDGMENT? TO LET THE CASE BE HEARD BY A SINGLE JUDGE, AND LET THE CHIPS FALL WHERE THEY MAY?

NO. GRIGGS IS ADAMANT ABOUT WANTING HIS DAY IN COURT. A JURY TRIAL. IT'S A WASTE OF MONEY, BUT THAT'S THE SYSTEM.

YOU SURPRISE ME, MR. MURDOCK. NOT MANY LAWYERS WOULD ADMIT THEY'D MADE A MISTAKE TO THEIR OPPONENT.

PERHAPS FROM YOUR PERSPECTIVE, I REALLY HAVEN'T MADE ANY MISTAKES.

HOW SO?

WERE I TO DROP GRIGGS, HE'D HIRE SOMEONE ELSE.

SOMEONE WHO MIGHT NOT BE SO WILLING TO SIT DOWN WITH YOU LIKE THIS. YOU'D STILL HAVE TO GO TO TRIAL AND YOUR ASPIRIN BILL WOULD BE A WHOLE LOT HIGHER.

TRUE ENOUGH.

WELL, I AGREE TO YOUR PROPOSAL. LET'S GET THIS ONE FINISHED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

YOU DON'T NEED TO DISCUSS THAT WITH YOUR CLIENT?

MY CLIENT IS AS DECENT A MAN AS I'VE EVER MET --

-- AND I HAVEN'T EVEN SEEN HIS FACE. I TRUST HIM AND HE TRUSTS ME. AND I KNOW HE'LL AGREE THAT A SPEEDY TRIAL IS DEFINITELY IN HIS BEST INTEREST.

MR. MURDOCK... HAVE YOU DISCUSSED ALL THIS WITH *YOUR* CLIENT?

NOT TO WORRY. HE'S HELLBENT FOR HIS DAY IN COURT. THE SOONER, THE BETTER.

IN THE MATTER OF GRIGGS VS. DAREDEVIL, I HAVE RECEIVED A JOINT PETITION FOR THE EARLIEST POSSIBLE TRIAL DATE DUE TO "*EXTENUATING CIRCUMSTANCES.*"

THERE'S A LOT OF LATITUDE IN THE DEFINITION OF "*EXTENUATING CIRCUMSTANCES...*"

... BUT IN MY JUDGMENT, IT IS TO THE ADVANTAGE OF THE PUBLIC TO GET THIS CIRCUS OVER WITH AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

PETITION IS HEREBY GRANTED. TRIAL WILL BEGIN WITH JURY SELECTION IN TWO WEEKS, ON THE 19TH.

MR. WERTZ HAS BEEN COMPENSATED FOR THE DAMAGE TO HIS CAR...

... AND I'VE SPOKEN TO ESX ABOUT COVERING THAT SKYLIGHT YOU BROKE THE OTHER DAY.

NOW WE CAN ESTABLISH THAT YOU *DO* ACT RESPONSIBLY WHEN YOU DAMAGE PROPERTY.

BUT TRY NOT TO BREAK ANYTHING FOR THE NEXT TWO WEEKS.

I'LL DO MY BEST, MA'AM. I PROMISE.

BECAUSE OTHERWISE I MIGHT HAVE TO TIE YOU UP...

... JUST TO MAKE SURE YOU BEHAVE YOURSELF.

SO... WOULD YOU TIE ME UP OR TIE ME DOWN?

OH. I CAN'T BELIEVE I SAID THAT. I'M SO SORRY.

YOU'RE DOING FINE, COUNSELOR. YOU'RE DOING FINE.

THE ELMDALE POLICE PHONE RECORDS CONFIRM THAT GRIGGS INDEED CALLED WHEN HE SAID. HERE -- THIS 670 NUMBER IS HIS CELLPHONE, ON THE 9TH AT 1:48 A.M.

STRANGE. IF HE WAS AT HOME, WHY WOULD HE CALL FROM HIS CELLPHONE?

I WONDERED THE SAME THING. SO I GOT GRIGGS' OWN PHONE RECORDS TO DOUBLE CHECK.

THE CELLPHONE CROSS-REFERENCES EXACTLY. BUT LOOK AT THIS: REPEATED CALLS TO HIS HOME PHONE FROM HIS CELL AND VICE VERSA.

WHY WOULD GRIGGS CALL HIS OWN CELLPHONE?

I WONDERED THAT TOO, SO I DUG AROUND. TURNS OUT, GRIGGS PAYS FOR IT, BUT IT BELONGS TO HIS EXTRACURRICULAR GIRLFRIEND.

MARLENE BELDEN. HE'S BEEN SEEING HER FOR AT LEAST TWO YEARS.

SINCE THE CALL TO 911 WAS PLACED FROM HER CELLPHONE, SHE MUST HAVE BEEN WITH HIM THAT NIGHT -- WHICH MEANS SHE'S A POTENTIAL WITNESS.

ELAINE, YOU'RE AN INVESTIGATIVE GODDESS. DO YOU HAVE HER ADDRESS?

OF COURSE. SHE LIVES LESS THAN FIVE MINUTES FROM GRIGGS.

SO WHAT DID SAM TELL YOU ABOUT ME?

NEVER MIND WHAT HE HAS OR HASN'T TOLD ME. I NEED TO KNOW YOUR VERSION OF THINGS.

THAT'S THE ONLY WAY I'LL BE ABLE TO WIN THIS CASE.

WELL... I'VE BEEN INVOLVED WITH SAM FOR THREE YEARS. I KNOW HE WON'T DIVORCE HIS WIFE AND MARRY ME, HE'S MADE THAT VERY CLEAR. BUT I'VE ACCEPTED THAT. AND HE'S TAKEN VERY GOOD CARE OF ME.

THAT NIGHT, THE NIGHT HE SAID HIS GREENHOUSE WAS WRECKED, HE WASN'T AT HOME. HE WAS HERE.

ON THE NIGHT OF THE 8TH? HE WAS *HERE?* YOU'RE CERTAIN?

"HE WOKE UP SUDDENLY IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT -- HE WAS VERY DISTURBED AND SAID... "

I HAVE TO MAKE A PHONE CALL.

" HE PICKED UP THE PHONE BY THE BED, THEN PUT IT DOWN. THEN HE TOOK THE CELLPHONE HE'D GIVEN ME INTO THE OTHER ROOM AND MADE A CALL.

"AND THEN HE LEFT. NO EXPLANATIONS. NOTHING."

"WHEN I HEARD ABOUT THE LAWSUIT, I ASKED HIM ABOUT IT. I REMINDED HIM THAT HE'D BEEN HERE."

NO I WASN'T. I WASN'T HERE. YOU UNDERSTAND ME? I WASN'T HERE THAT NIGHT.

"I ASKED HIM IF THIS WHOLE LAWSUIT THING WAS SOME SORT OF ALIBI, BECAUSE HIS WIFE WAS GETTING CURIOUS OR SOMETHING. HE JUST LOOKED ME RIGHT IN THE EYE AND SAID... "

I WAS NEVER HERE THAT NIGHT. I WAS HOME. THAT'S THE TRUTH.

"THE WAY HE SAID IT, IT WAS SO CONVINCING. LIKE HE BELIEVED IT. HE ALMOST MADE *ME* BELIEVE IT."

MR. MURDOCK, I'M TELLING YOU THIS BECAUSE I KNOW YOU'LL PROTECT HIS SECRET. I KNOW THAT IF HIS RELATIONSHIP WITH ME IS EVER EXPOSED, IT WILL DESTROY HIS MARRIAGE AND HURT HIM TERRIBLY.

SO IF I GET CALLED AS A WITNESS, I'M GOING TO LIE. I WILL SWEAR TO GOD THAT SAM WAS NEVER HERE THAT NIGHT.

I UNDERSTAND.

I THINK FOGGY AND I SHOULD HAVE ANOTHER CHAT WITH MR. GRIGGS.

I DON'T KNOW HOW YOU FOUND OUT ABOUT MARLENE, BUT YOU LEAVE HER OUT OF THIS, UNDERSTAND?

ANYWAY, SHE'S ALL MIXED UP. I WASN'T THERE THAT NIGHT.

SHE'S NOT GOING TO DISPUTE THAT.

THERE'S NOTHING TO DISPUTE BECAUSE I WASN'T THERE. SHE'S A NICE KID, BUT SHE GETS CONFUSED SOMETIMES.

I SUPPOSE IT'S TOO LATE TO ASK DAREDEVIL TO PAY DAMAGES FOR SOME OF THESE PLANTS THAT DIED DUE TO HIS NEGLIGENCE...?

IT LOOKS BAD TO CHANGE A CLAIM AFTER IT'S BEEN FILED.

RIGHT. I KNEW THAT.

LET ME LAY THIS OUT FOR YOU.

YOU SAY DAREDEVIL WRECKED YOUR GREENHOUSE. HE SAYS HE DIDN'T. YOU HAVE NO WITNESSES THAT CAN PLACE HIM AT THE SCENE; HE HAS NO WITNESSES THAT CAN PLACE HIM ELSEWHERE. ALTHOUGH CERTAIN PARTS OF YOUR STORY CHECK OUT, AND WE CAN SHOW THAT DAREDEVIL HAS DAMAGED PRIVATE PROPERTY IN THE PAST, IT SIMPLY BOILS DOWN TO YOUR WORD AGAINST HIS.

NOW, DOES THE PHRASE *"REASONABLE DOUBT"* MEAN ANYTHING TO YOU? BECAUSE WITHOUT SOME HARD EVIDENCE OR A CORROBORATING WITNESS, ANY JURY WILL HAVE REASONABLE DOUBT THAT DAREDEVIL DID THIS. WE'RE YOUR ATTORNEYS AND *WE* HAVE A REASONABLE DOUBT.

I THOUGHT IT WAS YOUR JOB TO CONVINCE THE JURY OTHERWISE.

IT IS. AND WE CAN BRING CHARACTER WITNESSES TO TESTIFY TO YOUR STERLING ATTRIBUTES, AND THEY CAN DO THE SAME. BUT IF THEY FIND OUT ABOUT MS. BELDEN, YOUR *"STERLING ATTRIBUTES"* WILL BE SUDDENLY IN THE TOILET.

NO JURY IS INCLINED TO BELIEVE A MAN WHO CHEATS ON HIS WIFE.

AS YOUR ATTORNEYS, WE DON'T BELIEVE WE'LL WIN THIS CASE.

SO I HAVE TO ASK YOU: WHY WASTE THE TIME AND MONEY PURSUING IT?

BECAUSE I'M *RIGHT*. I KNOW I'M RIGHT.

I KNOW WHAT I SAW.

AND A MAN WHO'S RIGHT --

-- DOESN'T DROP A LAWSUIT THAT HE INSTIGATED!

NO DOUBT, NO HESITATION. I SENSE ABSOLUTELY NOTHING IN HIS VOICE, HIS HEARTBEAT OR HIS DEMEANOR THAT WOULD INDICATE HE'S NOT TELLING THE TRUTH.

BESIDES IF I WITHDRAW THE CASE, I'LL LOOK LIKE A FOOL AND IT'LL BE MY FAULT. IF YOU LOSE THE CASE, IT'LL BE YOUR FAULT.

NOW YOU'LL EXCUSE ME, BUT I HAVE AN APPOINTMENT ELSEWHERE. GOOD DAY.

THIS CAN'T JUST BE ABOUT HIM LOOKING LIKE A FOOL.

THERE'S GOTTA BE SOMETHING MORE TO IT.

I JUST WISH I KNEW WHERE ELSE TO LOOK.

HAVE YOU GIVEN ANY THOUGHT TO HOW YOU'RE GONNA APPEAR IN COURT AS BOTH THE PLANTIFF'S ATTORNEY AND THE DEFENDANT?

NO. BUT I GUESS IT'S TIME I DID...

TWO DAYS LATER...

ABOUT THIS DAREDEVIL CASE? WELL, ON THE NIGHT OF THE 8TH, I SAW DAREDEVIL IN THE VICINITY OF THE SAMUEL GRIGGS ESTATE.

ARE YOU SURE IT WAS THE NIGHT OF THE 8TH?

YES, MA'AM. WITHOUT A DOUBT.

THEN MR. MURDOCK AND MR. NELSON WILL BE VERY EAGER TO INTERVIEW YOU.

MR. BRADLEE, WE'RE GOING TO TAPE THIS. IT'S STANDARD PROCEDURE WITH ALL POTENTIAL WITNESSES.

OKAY. UH, DO I GET PAID FOR THIS?

NO. BUT IF YOU'RE CALLED TO TESTIFY, YOU'LL BE REIMBURSED FOR EXPENSES AND LOST WAGES.

FIRST STATE YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS.

PAUL RAYMOND BRADLEE. 456 GANNON STREET, YONKERS.

MARRIED?

NO.

OCCUPATION?

I'M... A JANITOR. AT THE DeWOSKIN MEDICAL BUILDING.

WHY HAVE YOU WAITED UNTIL NOW TO COME FORWARD?

I WAS OUT OF TOWN. DIDN'T KNOW MUCH ABOUT THE CASE.

BUT WHEN I GOT BACK, I LEARNED SOME OF THE DETAILS AND REALIZED I WAS SORT OF A WITNESS. SO I CAME HERE.

HAVE YOU EVER MET SAMUEL GRIGGS BEFORE?

NO, SIR. I MEAN, I KNOW WHO HE IS. I GUESS EVERYBODY KNOWS WHO HE IS. BUT I'VE NEVER SEEN HIM IN PERSON.

AND HOW DID YOU HAPPEN TO BE NEAR THE GRIGGS ESTATE THAT NIGHT?

I WAS DRIVING HOME FROM THE MOVIES. THE 11:00 SHOW OF *"PLANET OF THE APES."* I LIKE THE LATE SHOWS. THEY'RE NEVER CROWDED.

"IT WAS A WARM NIGHT, MY WINDOWS WERE DOWN...

"IT WAS AROUND 1:30. I REMEMBER THE TIME BECAUSE I TUNED INTO THE SPORTS UPDATE -- WANTED TO FIND OUT IF BONDS HIT ANY HOME RUNS THAT NIGHT.

"MOMENTS LATER, I CAME AROUND A BEND AND SAW THREE FIGURES IN BLACK -- THEY DARTED ACROSS THE ROAD."

"I HIT THE BRAKES. I ADMIT I WAS A BIT SCARED. AND THEN I SAW...

"... DAREDEVIL, SWINGING ACROSS THE ROAD IN PURSUIT.

"I WATCHED, AMAZED, AS THEY DISAPPEARED LIKE ETHEREAL SPIRITS INTO THE NIGHT. I'VE LIVED IN THE NEW YORK AREA MY WHOLE LIFE AND THAT'S THE FIRST TIME I EVER SAW A SUPER HERO."

"AND THEN WHAT? DID YOU CALL THE POLICE?"

NO. I SAW NO REASON TO. AFTER ALL, IT WAS DAREDEVIL. IF HE WAS AFTER SOME CROOKS, I DOUBTED HE'D NEED HELP.

ELAINE, CHECK IF THAT MOVIE WAS PLAYING THEN, AND WHERE; WHEN DID IT LET OUT...

RIGHT. EVERY LITTLE DETAIL, CHECK AND CROSS CHECK.

REMARKABLE. I TELL GRIGGS WE NEED ANOTHER WITNESS, AND FORTY-EIGHT HOURS LATER, HE WALTZES INTO THE OFFICE.

YOU THINK GRIGGS PUT HIM UP TO IT?

NO, BUT THERE'S SOMETHING ABOUT HIS STORY... SOMETHING HE SAID... IT'S EATING AT ME...

YEAH. I GOT THE SAME FEELING...

EXCUSE ME, BUT I'M TRANSCRIBING MR. BRADLEE'S STATEMENT. HOW DO YOU SPELL "ETHEREAL"? I SHOULD KNOW IT BECAUSE MR. GRIGGS USED IT TOO, BUT IT'S SUCH AN UNUSUAL WORD...

...

"LIKE ETHEREAL SPIRITS INTO THE NIGHT."

IT'S THE SAME PHRASE GRIGGS USED! WHAT ARE THE CHANCES THAT THE TWO WITNESSES TO THE EVENT WOULD USE THE SAME EXACT WORDS TO DESCRIBE IT?

ZERO!

YES, BUT HOW DO YOU SPELL IT?

E-T-H-E-R-E-A-L, MRS. BARBATO.

MAYBE BRADLEE DOESN'T KNOW GRIGGS, AND GRIGGS DOESN'T KNOW BRADLEE. BUT I'LL BET THE FARM THAT THEY BOTH KNOW SOMEONE THAT THE OTHER KNOWS, AND THAT'S THE MISSING PIECE OF THE PUZZLE.

FIRST WE NEED TO ACCOUNT FOR GRIGGS' WHEREABOUTS FROM TUESDAY -- WHEN WE TOLD HIM WE NEEDED A WITNESS -- UNTIL THIS MORNING.

SIMPLE. DAREDEVIL ASKS HIS ATTORNEY TO SUBPOENA GRIGGS' APPOINTMENT BOOK.

IT'LL TAKE TOO LONG. I WANT TO FIND OUT *NOW!* AND DAREDEVIL DOESN'T NEED A SUBPOENA!

SLOW DOWN, MATT. YOU'RE TAKING THIS TOO PERSONALLY. IT MAKES YOU SLOPPY.

MR. GRIGGS, FRANKLIN NELSON. FOR EXPEDIENCY, WE'VE BEEN SHARING EVIDENCE WITH THE OTHER SIDE, AND VICE VERSA. THEY'VE ASKED TO SEE YOUR APPOINTMENT BOOK, COVERING THE LAST TWO MONTHS. THEY CAN SUBPOENA IT, OR WE CAN SAVE TIME AND COOPERATE.

I'LL HAVE JANINE SCAN IT AND FAX IT OVER TO YOU.

OKAY, OKAY, YOU TOLD ME SO. AGAIN.

BEEP

HMM... GRIGGS HAS BEEN SEEING A THERAPIST. REGULARLY. DR. ARNIE QUAID. THAT'S WHERE HE WENT TUESDAY RIGHT AFTER WE TOLD HIM WE NEEDED A WITNESS...

QUAID, ARNOLD. SUITE 1622, DeWOSKIN MEDICAL BUILDING!

WHERE PAUL BRADLEE IS A JANITOR!

QUAID IS THE LINK!

WHO ARE YOU CALLING?

QUAID. IT WORKED BEFORE.

YOU'VE REACHED THE OFFICE OF DR. ARNIE QUAID. PLEASE LEAVE A MESSAGE AND DR. QUAID WILL RESPOND AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

FRANKLIN NELSON, ATTORNEY FOR SAMUEL GRIGGS. I'D LIKE TO TALK TO YOU, REGARDING GRIGGS VS. DAREDEVIL. 555-1550.

GO GET 'EM, COWBOY.

NO SPECTACULAR ENTRANCES THROUGH WINDOWS THIS TIME -- THAT SKYLIGHT I BROKE AT ESX ISN'T GONNA BE CHEAP TO REPLACE, AND I CERTAINLY DON'T NEED TO RISK DOING MORE PROPERTY DAMAGE WITH THE TRIAL PENDING.

1212

OH MY GOD. I CAN'T BELIEVE IT'S HIM! WHAT'S HE DOING HERE?

Oh, I SEE THEM HERE ALL THE TIME.

THE RED SKULL COMES IN EVERY WEEK, IRON MAN, BLACK BOLT... THE SHRINKS IN THIS BUILDING SEE EVERYBODY.

ELEVA

1622

DOCTOR ARNOLD QUAID

HELLO? ANYBODY HERE? DR. QUAID?

SEC. CAM

DR. ARNOLD QUAID?

HELLO, DAREDEVIL. I'VE BEEN EXPECTING YOU.

Uh, DO I KNOW YOU?

Ah, YOU DON'T REMEMBER. SHAME. A LESSER MAN WOULD TAKE THAT AS AN INSULT.

WAIT... THE VOICE IS FAMILIAR, BUT -- NO, I CAN'T QUITE PLACE YOU.

IT'S TRUE, MY PREVIOUS CRIMINAL INCARNATION WAS LESS THAN MEMORABLE. *MIGUEL ELOGANTO.*

YES! *"THE MATADOR."* YOU USED TO RUN AROUND IN THAT RIDICULOUS TOREADOR OUTFIT...

I WAS YOUNG AND FOOLISH.

YOUR WARDROBE HAS CERTAINLY IMPROVED. SO EXACTLY WHAT'S YOUR GAME, ELOGANTO?

MY "GAME" IS MENTAL THERAPY. THE GREATEST SCAM EVER DEVISED.

PEOPLE COME TO ME AND VOLUNTARILY TELL ME THEIR DEEPEST SECRETS. THEY TURN THEIR BRAINS OVER TO ME TO PLAY WITH. THEY WILLINGLY GIVE UP CONTROL AND PAY ME TO DO IT.

PEOPLE LIKE SAMUEL GRIGGS...

PEOPLE TODAY WANT TO BE CONVINCED THAT WHATEVER PROBLEMS THEY HAVE, WHATEVER AWFUL THINGS THEY'VE DONE, WHATEVER WORTHLESS MESS THEY'VE MADE OF THEIR PATHETIC LIVES, IT'S NOT THEIR FAULT. AND I'M HERE TO GIVE THEM SOMEONE TO BLAME. A TEACHER WHO BEAT THEM. A FATHER WHO MOLESTED THEM. AND IF TEACHER OR DAD DIDN'T DO THESE THINGS, I'LL SIMPLY HELP THE CLIENT CREATE MEMORIES THAT CONVINCE THEM THAT THESE THINGS *DID* HAPPEN. MEMORIES "BLOCKED" BY TRAUMA, THAT ONLY I CAN RECOVER, THROUGH HYPNOSIS, DRUGS, AND VARIOUS OTHER MENTAL THERAPIES.

WOULD YOU LIKE ME TO HELP YOU *"REMEMBER"* SOMETHING, DAREDEVIL?

NO THANKS, ELOGANTO. I CAN CERTAINLY REMEMBER HOW TO TAKE YOU TO THE POLICE!

WHY? WHAT CRIME HAVE I COMMITTED? THERE'S NO LAW AGAINST IMPLANTING FALSE MEMORIES. IF THERE WAS, YOU'D HAVE TO ARREST HALF THE SHRINKS IN THE COUNTRY.

YOU KNOW WHAT YOU DID.

YES, I ENCOURAGED GRIGGS TO SUE YOU. BUT THAT'S NO CRIME. IT WAS SOUND THERAPEUTIC ADVICE -- *"TAKE ACTION AGAINST YOUR PROBLEMS."*

THEN YOU'RE GUILTY OF FRAUD AGAINST GRIGGS.

Oh, I DON'T THINK HE'LL SWEAR OUT A COMPLAINT, DO YOU?

LET'S GO ASK HIM.

THIS IS ASSAULT! UNHAND ME! ILSA!

I'M IN CHARGE OF *"PHYSICAL THERAPY."*

DESTROYING PROPERTY IS GETTING TO BE A BAD HABIT WITH YOU, ISN'T IT?

NOW, C'MON. YOU TRY ANYTHING, YOU'LL GET WHAT SHE GOT.

MY MY, THREATENING A LAW-ABIDING CITIZEN. PERHAPS *I'LL* SUE YOU TOO.

TAXI!

1212

GREAT COSTUME, MAN. WHERE'S THE PARTY?

THE GRIGGS FOUNDATION. 49TH AND 3RD.

WAIT -- YOU CAN'T GO IN THERE -- MR. GRIGGS IS IN A MEETING!

EXTENUATING CIRCUMSTANCES.

HELLO, MR. GRIGGS. I DON'T BELIEVE WE'VE EVER MET.

YOU! HOW DARE YOU BUST IN HERE?

EXCUSE US, GENTLEMEN. MR. GRIGGS AND I HAVE BUSINESS.

NO -- STAY. I MAY NEED WITNESSES.

RECOGNIZE THIS MAN, GRIGGS.

NO. SHOULD I?

HE'S ARNOLD QUAID, FORMERLY MIGUEL ELOGANTO, THE MATADOR.

THAT'S NOT ARNOLD QUAID. QUAID'S MY THERAPIST -- HE'S GOT FLAMING RED HAIR. I'VE NEVER SEEN THIS MAN BEFORE IN MY LIFE.

SO YOU HYPNOTIZED HIM INTO SEEING YOU AS A REDHEAD? WELL, IT'S TIME TO UNHYPNOTIZE HIM AND WIPE OUT THOSE FALSE MEMORIES! DO IT, ELOGANTO, IF YOU KNOW WHAT'S GOOD FOR YOU!

WHAT FALSE MEMORIES? I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT.

THE HELL YOU DON'T. YOU JUST TOLD ME YOU IMPLANTED FALSE MEMORIES IN HIM!

I DID NOT. HOW COULD I? I'VE NEVER MET THIS MAN BEFORE IN MY LIFE, AND I DON'T KNOW THE FIRST THING ABOUT "*IMPLANTING MEMORIES.*"

I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TRYING TO PULL HERE, DAREDEVIL, BUT I AM NOT AMUSED. YOU AND YOUR FRIEND HAVE TEN SECONDS TO GET OUT OF HERE BEFORE I CALL THE POLICE.

MR. GRIGGS, THIS MAN -- IN THE GUISE OF YOUR THERAPIST -- APPARENTLY HYPNOTIZED YOU INTO BELIEVING I WRECKED YOUR GREENHOUSE.

Oh, THAT'S PATHETIC! YOU EXPECT ME TO BUY THAT?

IT'S THE TRUTH!

THEN TELL IT TO THE JURY.

AND IF NOT, I WILL. I HAVE TWO WITNESSES, AND THIS WHOLE INCIDENT HAS BEEN TAPED.

SECURITY CAMERA.

A PRECAUTION AGAINST FALSE CLAIMS OF SEXUAL HARASSMENT.

IS THERE ANYBODY IN THIS WORLD WHO *DOESN'T* HAVE A VIDEO CAMERA?

SEE YOU IN COURT, DAREDEVIL.

JUST WHEN I THINK THE HOLE I'VE DUG FOR MYSELF CAN'T GET ANY DEEPER, IT DOES.

AS FOR YOU, ELOGANTO...

WHAT? WHAT HAVE I DONE? I'M REFORMED -- I'VE BEEN STRAIGHT FOR YEARS! YOU'VE GOT NO RIGHT TO HARASS ME!

YOU'RE A WITNESS IN THE GRIGGS CASE.

I AM NOT! I NEVER LAID EYES ON GRIGGS UNTIL JUST NOW!

WHAT WERE YOU DOING IN QUAID'S OFFICE?

QUAID? WHO'S QUAID? I DON'T KNOW ANYONE NAMED QUAID.

I'M TALKING ABOUT THE MEDICAL OFFICE WHERE I NABBED YOU AFTER YOU MADE A BIG SPEECH TO ME ABOUT BEING A THERAPIST.

YOU'RE DELUSIONAL, DAREDEVIL. I WAS WALKING DOWN THE STREET, ON MY WAY TO A JOB INTERVIEW, WHEN YOU NABBED ME AND FORCED ME INTO A CAB.

HIS HEARTBEAT AND BREATHING DON'T HAVE THE TELLTALE CHARACTERISTICS OF LIES, DECEIT AND GUILT.

ON THE OTHER HAND, HE COULD CONCEIVABLY HAVE CONTROL OVER HIS OWN BODILY RESPONSE, LIKE THE INDIAN FAKIRS. IT'S CERTAINLY AN OSCAR CALIBER PERFORMANCE...

C'MON, THE TRUTH. OUT WITH IT.

YOU JUST HEARD IT.

EITHER I'M CRAZY OR YOU ARE...

I'LL GO WITH CHOICE NUMBER ONE. AND THAT BEING THE CASE, I'D APPRECIATE IT IF YOU'D UNHAND ME.

FINE. GO.

TIME TO MAKE A RETURN VISIT TO QUAID'S OFFICE. MAYBE GRIGGS' PATIENT FILE WILL PROVIDE AN ANSWER.

NO DAMAGE. IT'S LIKE I WAS NEVER HERE.

EMPTY FILE DRAWERS. NO PATIENT RECORDS. YET GRIGGS' APPOINTMENT BOOK INDICATED HE SAW QUAID TUESDAY AFTERNOON...

NO DIPLOMAS, NO CERTIFICATES, NOT ONE PERSONAL ITEM REGARDING ARNOLD QUAID...

AND THERE'S NO EVIDENCE THAT HE OR ILSA WERE EVER HERE, EITHER.

SOMEONE HAS GONE TO A LOT OF TROUBLE WITH ALL THIS...

...THE QUESTION IS, WHO?

SOME HOW I CROSS The Line... a blurring one, Where The Scents Echoes AND CHILLS

SOME LESS FROM OUT SIDE my HEAD...

AND MORE FROM INSIDE it.

MEMORY AND DREAM

The only Places where I am not BLIND.

UNHYPNOTIZE HIM AND WIPE OUT THOSE FALSE MEMORIES!

IT'S PERFECT! WHEN WE RUN THIS TAPE FOR A JURY, IT'S OVER! CONGRATULATIONS, GENTLEMEN -- YOU'VE JUST WON THIS CASE!

ELAINE, MAKE A COPY OF IT AND GET IT OVER TO KATE VINOKUR A.S.A.P.

AND MR. BRADLEE'S STORY CHECKS OUT.

THAT MOVIE WAS PLAYING NEAR ELMDALE AT THE TIME HE SAID. I THINK HE'LL BE A GREAT WITNESS.

I THINK DAREDEVIL MIGHT WANT TO SETTLE NOW.

SHOULD WE SEND THIS OUT TO THE MEDIA, TOO?

HEAVENS, NO. WE'RE TRYING TO WIN A LAWSUIT, NOT DESTROY DAREDEVIL'S REPUTATION. LET'S JUST HOPE GRIGGS DIDN'T SEND IT OUT EITHER.

HE DIDN'T.

THIS IS THE ORIGINAL.

I KNOW REDHEADS HAVE A REPUTATION FOR SHORT FUSES, BUT CLEARLY GRIGGS IS NOT THE ONLY LOOSE CANNON IN THIS CASE.

I'D LIKE TO BE A FLY ON THE WALL IN KATE'S OFFICE AN HOUR FROM NOW...

I WAS SO SURE...

ARE YOU TRYING TO SABOTAGE THIS CASE? DO YOU HAVE A DEATH WISH?

DON'T YOU UNDERSTAND?

ELOGANTO IMPLANTING GRIGGS WITH FALSE MEMORIES WOULD EXPLAIN EVERYTHING!

EXCEPT A MOTIVE. DID YOU THINK ABOUT THAT? IF HE HAD SUCH A GREAT RACKET GOING IN MEMORY MANIPULATION, WHY WOULD HE RISK IT BY INVOLVING YOU?

HE WOULDN'T. WHICH MEANS HE MUST BE SOMEBODY ELSE'S PUPPET.

SO NOW THERE'S A CONSPIRACY? "*A VAST EVIL CONSPIRACY*"? DO YOU KNOW HOW THAT'S GONNA SOUND TO A JURY? MURDOCK AND NELSON'LL PAINT YOU AS PARANOID, AND IF THEY DON'T, THE PRESS WILL.

MY ADVICE IS TO SETTLE. THIS CONSPIRACY THEORY ISN'T SOLID ENOUGH TO CREATE REASONABLE DOUBT, AND BESIDES, I DON'T THINK I'M CAPABLE OF SPINNING SUCH A YARN.

THIS LETTER JUST CAME BY MESSENGER -- ADDRESSED TO DAREDEVIL.

RENE, YOU KNOW THAT THE MAIL WE GET FOR DAREDEVIL --

THE RETURN ADDRESS IS ARNOLD QUAID.

"HELLO, DAREDEVIL. SORRY I WASN'T IN MY OFFICE WHEN YOU CAME CALLING. I'M LOOKING FORWARD TO THE TRIAL. AREN'T YOU? ARNIE QUAID."

OKAY, SO MAYBE THE CONSPIRACY THEORY HAS ITS MERITS.

AT LEAST WE'VE GOT EVIDENCE NOW.

AND MAYBE THERE'S SOMETHING ON THIS LETTER THAT WILL --

DAMN.

BRAD, WHERE ARE WE ON LOCATING, QUAID?

THE MANAGER AT THE DeWOSKIN MEDICAL BUILDING DESCRIBED ARNOLD QUAID THE SAME WAY GRIGGS DID -- TALL, RED HAIR.

HE HAS NO HOME ADDRESS, AND THE RETURN ADDRESS ON THE RENT CHECKS IS QUAID'S OFFICE AT THE MEDICAL BUILDING. THE MANAGER SAYS QUAID HAS ALWAYS PAID ON TIME, AND IS A MODEL TENANT.

AS I WAS SAYING, MY ADVICE IS TO SETTLE.

WE CAN'T SETTLE. WHOEVER'S BEHIND THIS WANTS TO SEE ME ON TRIAL...

... SO WE HAVE TO PROCEED! IT MAY BE THE ONLY WAY TO FIND OUT WHO MY REAL ENEMY IS!

THAT MAY MAKE SENSE FROM YOUR POINT OF VIEW, BUT I'VE GOT TO STAND IN FRONT OF A JURY WITH A REASONABLE EXPLANATION FOR THIS VIDEO.

AND THE CONSPIRACY THEORY WON'T CUT IT.

I'LL THINK OF SOMETHING.

THINK FAST...

"... JURY SELECTION BEGINS THE DAY AFTER TOMORROW."

STAN LEE PRESENTS:

RUMINATIONS OVER MANHATTAN

PLAYING TO THE CAMERA
PART FIVE

KATE ASKED THE SIXTY-FOUR THOUSAND DOLLAR QUESTION: WHAT'S THE REAL MOTIVE?

LET'S BE LOGICAL. LET'S ASSUME GRIGGS IS UNDER SOME SORT OF MIND CONTROL, EITHER FROM ELOGANTO OR SOMEONE ELSE. THAT WOULD CERTAINLY EXPLAIN MARLENE BELDEN'S VERSION OF EVENTS.

AS FAR AS THE TRIAL GOES, THERE APPEAR TO BE ONLY THREE POSSIBLE OUTCOMES --

-- I COULD SETTLE THE CASE. I COULD WIN THE CASE. OR I COULD LOSE THE CASE.

THE WORST THAT COULD HAPPEN IS, I LOSE SOME MONEY AND MY REPUTATION SUFFERS A BLEMISH.

MAYBE MORE THAN A BLEMISH.

STILL, IS THAT IT? IS THIS ALL SOME ELABORATE PLOT TO EMBARRASS ME?

THEN WHY DO IT? WHY GO TO SUCH EXTRAORDINARY LENGTHS?

MAYBE THIS IS ABOUT KEEPING DAREDEVIL BUSY IN COURT WHILE SOME OTHER CRIME TAKES PLACE DURING THE TRIAL. BUT THAT DOESN'T MAKE SENSE -- THERE ARE OTHER SUPERHEROES AROUND TO PICK UP THE SLACK.

THE LETTER FROM QUAID SAID HE WAS LOOKING FORWARD TO THE TRIAL. IF I WERE TO SETTLE, THAT WOULD THWART HIS DESIRES. BUT THEN I'D HAVE TO ADMIT GUILT, AND THAT'S JUST NOT ACCEPTABLE.

CLEARLY, QUAID IS THE KEY. AND MY ONLY POSSIBLE LINK TO HIM IS THROUGH GRIGGS. QUAID MAY HAVE AN AX TO GRIND WITH DAREDEVIL, BUT HE'D HAVE NO REASON TO AVOID MATT MURDOCK.

THE ETHICS MAY BE QUESTIONABLE, BUT...

I DON'T HAVE A HOME NUMBER FOR QUAID. I LEAVE MESSAGES AND HE CALLS BACK. ONLY, I DON'T WANT HIM INVOLVED IN THIS.

BUT IF THEY'RE GOING TO TAKE THE POSITION THAT YOU WERE UNDER SOME SORT OF HYPNOSIS, HE COULD TESTIFY TO THE RIDICULOUSNESS OF THAT IDEA. HE COULD TESTIFY TO YOUR MENTAL SOUNDNESS. HE COULD DO YOU A LOT OF GOOD.

DO YOU REALLY THINK THEY'RE GOING TO CLAIM I WAS HYPNOTIZED INTO BRINGING THIS LAWSUIT?

PROBABLY NOT. BUT THEY'LL WANT TO KNOW IF YOU'RE UNDER THE CARE OF A MENTAL HEALTH PROFESSIONAL. AND IF YOU WON'T MAKE HIM AVAILABLE, THEY MAY SUGGEST IT'S BECAUSE YOU'RE *"MENTALLY UNSOUND."*

I SEE QUAID FOR COUNSELING REGARDING MY *"EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES."* SO I DON'T WANT HIM AS A WITNESS, UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES.

BESIDES, HE TREASURES HIS PRIVACY AND I REFUSE TO DRAG HIM INTO THIS.

IN THAT CASE, I SHOULD TALK TO HIM, TO GIVE HIM SOME ADVICE ABOUT HOW TO AVOID BEING SERVED -- THE OTHER SIDE MAY GO AFTER HIM.

I'LL SEE WHAT I CAN DO.

SO HOW DO I RESPOND WHEN THEY ASK ME WHY I'VE BEEN SEEING QUAID?

YOU SAY *"TO BE A BETTER HUSBAND."* THE WOMEN ON THE JURY WILL LIKE THAT, AND THE MARRIED MEN WILL EMPATHIZE.

IF THEY ASK BEYOND THAT, WE'LL OBJECT. YOU CAN'T BE COMPELLED TO TESTIFY ABOUT YOUR SPOUSE.

HERE'S MY BEEPER NUMBER. HAVE QUAID CONTACT ME, DAY OR NIGHT. YOU UNDERSTAND HOW IMPORTANT THIS IS?

YES. I'LL MAKE THAT EXTREMELY CLEAR.

AND WHEN QUAID CALLS MY BEEPER, I'LL HAVE A NUMBER TO TRACE.

MURDOCK? JUST CURIOUS: HOW DOES A BLIND MAN READ A BEEPER?

IT TALKS.

IT IS MY DECISION THAT CAMERAS AND ELECTRIC OR ELECTRONIC RECORDING DEVICES WILL *NOT* BE ALLOWED IN MY COURTROOM. WE'RE DOING THIS THE OLD-FASHIONED WAY.

YOU MEDIA PEOPLE CAN FILE AS MANY INJUNCTIONS AND MOTIONS AS YOU WANT. BUT I'LL SHOW YOU WHAT'S GONNA HAPPEN TO 'EM...

BUT YOUR HONOR, ISN'T THAT INTERFERING WITH --

SHUT UP! IT'S IMPOLITE TO INTERRUPT!

WE'VE GOT TWENTY SEATS RESERVED FOR THE PRESS. IT'S UP TO YOU ALL TO FIGURE OUT HOW TO POOL 'EM AND ROTATE 'EM AROUND.

AS FOR THE PUBLIC SEATS, I KNOW EVERYBODY AND HIS UNCLE WANTS TO BE IN MY COURTROOM FOR THIS ONE.

MY RESPONSE IS, DON'T YOU HAVE ANYTHING BETTER TO DO? DON'T YOU HAVE JOBS? YOU WANT TO SIT IN A STUFFY ROOM AND LISTEN TO SOME LAWYERS WASTE TIME AND MONEY ON AN ASININE CASE THAT SHOULD HAVE BEEN SETTLED OUT OF COURT? AT LEAST I'M GETTING PAID FOR IT.

WELL, WE CAN'T LEGISLATE INTELLIGENCE. THERE'S ONLY ONE HUNDRED AND EIGHT SEATS, SO I'M INSTITUTING A LOTTERY SYSTEM. IF YOU WANT A NUMBER, SHOW UP HERE TOMORROW AT FIVE A.M. YEAH, FIVE A.M. I DON'T WANT THE DECENT PEOPLE WHO WORK AROUND HERE TO HAVE TO SUFFER ANY TRAFFIC JAMS BECAUSE A BUNCHA LUNATICS WANT TO SEE A SHOWBOATER IN A RED SUIT SIT IN A CHAIR AND ANSWER A BUNCH OF QUESTIONS.

NO DOUBT, WE'LL RUN OUTTA NUMBERS, AND WHEN THAT HAPPENS, TOUGH. IF YOU DON'T LIKE IT, IMPEACH ME. WE'LL HAVE TWO SHIFTS, MORNING AND AFTERNOON. EACH DAY'S NUMBERS'LL BE ANNOUNCED THE NIGHT BEFORE. WE'LL HAVE METAL DETECTORS. POLICE. CROWD CONTROL. EXTRA SECURITY. IT'S ALL A BIG WASTE OF YOUR TAX DOLLARS.

SO ENJOY THE SHOW. YOU'RE PAYING FOR IT.

NOW, ANY OF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS? KEEP 'EM TO YOURSELVES. I'M GOING HOME.

I ALWAYS HEARD THAT STEINBERG DIDN'T HAVE A LOT OF PATIENCE, BUT THAT'S NOT TRUE -- HE'S GOT *NO* PATIENCE.

"A SHOWBOATER IN A RED SUIT"? DON'T LOOK FOR ANY SYMPATHY FROM HIM.

"AN ASININE CASE." NOBODY'S GETTING ANY SYMPATHY FROM HIM.

WELL, AT LEAST HE'LL KEEP THINGS MOVING. I WOULDN'T BE SURPRISED IF HE AND GRIGGS GET INTO IT WITH EACH OTHER.

ACTUALLY, I'D LIKE TO SEE THAT. MAYBE GRIGGS'LL GET HIMSELF SLAPPED WITH A CONTEMPT CITATION.

LISTEN TO US. THIS IS OUR CLIENT, AND WE'RE HOPING HE GETS HIMSELF INTO TROUBLE.

HEY, HE'S BEEN ASKING FOR IT.

THEN AGAIN, MAYBE IT'S NOT HIS FAULT. IF HE'S A VICTIM OF MIND CONTROL...

I LEFT TWO MORE MESSAGES FOR QUAID AT HIS OFFICE NUMBER, BUT NO RESPONSE. MAYBE THE GUY DOESN'T REALLY EXIST...

BEEP BEEP

IT'S MY BEEPER! MAYBE THIS IS HIM CALLING!

"FIVE FIVE FIVE NINE TWO ONE ONE."

GRIGGS.

IT'S MATT MURDOCK, MR. GRIGGS. YOU BEEPED ME?

YES. I JUST SPOKE TO QUAID. HE'S GONNA CALL YOU.

GREAT! WHEN?

HE DIDN'T SAY. JUST THAT HE WOULD.

THANKS.

GOOD MORNING, DAREDEVIL. ARE YOU READY FOR TODAY?

LISTEN, KATE, I HAVE A PLAN, BUT IT MEANS I CAN'T BE IN COURT WITH YOU FOR JURY SELECTION...

I GET IT -- YOU'RE GONNA BE OUT TRYING TO FIND ARNOLD QUAID.

EXACTLY WHAT I HOPED SHE'D ASSUME. ACTUALLY, I CAN'T BE THERE AS DAREDEVIL BECAUSE I HAVE TO BE THERE AS MATT MURDOCK.

WHEN YOU'RE ASKED ABOUT MY WHEREABOUTS, JUST SAY THAT I HAVE PERSONAL REASONS FOR NOT BEING PRESENT, BUT ASSURE THEM THAT DAREDEVIL WILL BE THERE WHEN THE TRIAL ITSELF BEGINS.

DON'T BE ALARMED IF YOU CAN'T REACH ME. AND WHATEVER HAPPENS AT THE TRIAL, EVEN IF IT SEEMS UNUSUAL, JUST GO WITH IT.

WHAT'S THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN? WHAT'S GONNA BE SO UNUSUAL? AND WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO SAY IN MY OPENING STATEMENT ABOUT THE SECURITY TAPE?

DON'T SAY ANYTHING. DON'T EVEN MENTION IT.

OKAY, BUT YOU'RE THE ONE WHO'S GONNA BE CROSS-EXAMINED ON THE SUBJECT. I HOPE YOU'RE PREPARED.

DON'T WORRY.

I *AM* WORRIED. EXTREMELY WORRIED.

THAT MAKES TWO OF US.

IT'S QUITE A CROWD HERE, NO DOUBT HOPING FOR A GLIMPSE OF DAREDEVIL, WHO, SO FAR IS A NO-SHOW. ALTHOUGH, IT'S CUSTOMARY FOR DEFENDANTS TO BE PRESENT FOR JURY SELECTION, IT'S NOT REQUIRED.

PERHAPS IT'S SOME SORT OF DEFENSE STRATEGY, OVER CONCERN THAT DAREDEVIL'S PRESENCE MIGHT SOMEHOW INTIMIDATE OR UNNERVE PROSPECTIVE JURORS, BUT THAT'S SIMPLY SPECULATION. WHAT WE DO KNOW FOR A FACT IS THAT INSIDE, THE PROCESS OF JURY SELECTION IS UNDERWAY...

HELL WITH THE DEVIL

HANG IT UP GRIGGS!

RED

NUMBER EIGHT, DO YOU HAVE ANY OPINIONS ABOUT MASKED SUPER HEROES?

YEAH. I DON'T TRUST 'EM.

YOUR HONOR, DEFENSE WISHES TO DISMISS NUMBER EIGHT.

THANK YOU, NUMBER EIGHT, YOU'RE EXCUSED.

I THINK THEY'VE DONE A LOT OF GOOD.

DO YOU THINK IT'S POSSIBLE THAT THEY COULD MAKE MISTAKES?

SURE. EVERYBODY MAKES MISTAKES.

NO FURTHER QUESTIONS. NUMBER TWENTY-TWO IS FINE WITH US.

DOES THE DEFENSE WISH TO CHALLENGE?

NO, YOUR HONOR.

SHE SEEMS LIKE A DECENT CITIZEN TO US. WE'D BE HAPPY TO HAVE HER ON THE JURY.

RECESS FOR LUNCH...

...ONE HOUR.

I DON'T LIKE THAT NUMBER FOURTEEN GUY, THE TRUCK DRIVER. HE HATES ME BECAUSE I'VE GOT MONEY. I CAN TELL BY LOOKING AT HIS FACE.

ALL RIGHT, WE CAN HAVE HIM EXCUSED. ANY OTHERS YOU'RE UNCOMFORTABLE WITH?

NOT YET...

RING RING

HELLO?

SURE.

IT'S FOR YOU.

THIS IS MATT MURDOCK...

MISTER MURDOCK, THIS IS ARNIE QUAID. SAM GRIGGS SAID YOU WANTED TO TALK TO ME.

YES, I DO, DOCTOR QUAID.

I HATE DOING THIS OVER THE PHONE. IS THERE SOMEPLACE WE CAN MEET?

SURE... IF YOU DON'T MIND COMING TO EUROPE.

YOU'RE IN EUROPE?

WELL, I WAS DUE FOR A VACATION. WHEN I REALIZED I MIGHT BE SUBPOENAED, I THOUGHT I SHOULD TAKE ONE OUTSIDE THE COUNTRY.

OH.

SAM SAID YOU WANTED TO GIVE ME SOME ADVICE ABOUT AVOIDING SUBPOENAS. I THINK I'M COVERED, DON'T YOU?

YES, SIR. YOU CAN'T BE SERVED IN A FOREIGN COUNTRY.

GOOD TALKING TO YOU, MR. MURDOCK. GOOD LUCK IN THE CASE -- I'M ROOTING FOR YOU. BEST TO SAM.

CLICK

HE SENDS HIS REGARDS.

DAMN. I DIDN'T EXPECT THAT. HE HAS EVERY BASE COVERED, LEAVING ME NOWHERE. I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHERE IN EUROPE HE IS.

*COME TO THINK OF IT, HE NEVER ACTUALLY SAID HE **WAS** IN EUROPE. AND SINCE HE DIDN'T BEEP ME, I DON'T HAVE A PHONE NUMBER FOR HIM. I'M OUT OF OPTIONS ON THE QUAD FRONT.*

THIS IS A HIGH-PROFILE CASE, SO YOU'RE GOING TO BE SEQUESTERED. COME BACK TOMORROW WITH A SUITCASE AND CLOTHES FOR A WEEK.

AT THE END OF EACH DAY YOU'LL BE TAKEN TO ACCOMMODATIONS. YOU WON'T BE ALLOWED TO TALK TO ANYONE ABOUT THIS CASE, NOT EVEN EACH OTHER.

IF I FIND OUT ANY OF YOU ARE TELLING TALES OUT OF SCHOOL, I'LL CONSIDER IT MY DUTY TO MAKE YOU EXTREMELY UNHAPPY.

SEE YOU TOMORROW. BE EARLY. OH, AND MS. VINOKUR -- I DO HOPE YOUR CLIENT WILL GRACE US WITH HIS PRESENCE IN THE MORNING... OR THAT YOU CAN SHOW US JUST CAUSE WHY HE CAN'T.

MEANING HE'D BETTER BE IN A HOSPITAL ON LIFE SUPPORT... OR BE DEAD.

WITH DAREDEVIL HAVING BEEN ABSENT ALL DAY, THE QUESTION ON EVERYONE'S LIPS IS, WILL HE BE A NO-SHOW TOMORROW WHEN THE OPENING ARGUMENTS BEGIN?

LIVE COVERAGE BEGINS TOMORROW AT 8 A.M. JUDGE STEINBERG HAS RULED THAT NO CAMERAS WILL BE ALLOWED TO COVER THE PROCEEDINGS, SO WMVL HAS A BATTALION OF ARTISTS WHO WILL KEEP US VISUALLY IN TUNE WITH THE EVENTS INSIDE THE COURTROOM.

THOSE REPORTERS CAMPED OUTSIDE ARE MAKING SO MUCH NOISE THAT, WITH MY SENSITIVE HEARING, IT'S IMPOSSIBLE FOR ME TO SLEEP.

NOT THAT I COULD GET MUCH SLEEP ANYWAY.

THERE'S NOTHING WORSE THAN FEELING DUPLICITOUS. AND THAT'S HOW I FEEL IN SPADES. HAVING TWO IDENTITIES MEANS HAVING TWICE AS MANY PROBLEMS...

RING RING

KATE?

HI. I FIGURED YOU'D BE UP. I COULDN'T SLEEP EITHER.

YOU GOT THAT RIGHT.

SO HOW'S IT GOING? ANY LEADS ON QUAID?

JUST DEAD ENDS. HOW'S OUR JURY?

I THINK WE'RE OKAY THERE. FUNNY, I EXPECTED MURDOCK AND NELSON TO CHALLENGE A COUPLE OF THEM. BUT I GUESS THEY FEEL THEY'VE GOT A GOOD CASE. I WISH I FELT THAT WAY.

LISTEN, I WON'T BE ARRIVING AT THE COURTHOUSE WITH YOU IN THE MORNING.

DAREDEVIL, IF YOU DON'T SHOW, WE MIGHT AS WELL FORFEIT!

CALM DOWN. I SAID I WOULDN'T BE ARRIVING *WITH YOU.*

WHEN THEY ASK YOU "*WHERE'S DAREDEVIL,*" THIS IS WHAT I WANT YOU TO SAY...

MS. VINOKUR! WHERE IS YOUR CLIENT?

WHY ISN'T HE HERE?

DO YOU EXPECT HIM TO SHOW UP?

MY CLIENT WILL BE HERE. HE SIMPLY PLANS TO ARRIVE AT AN ALTITUDE BY WHICH HE CAN AVOID NAVIGATING THIS JUNGLE.

CXN

LOOK -- UP IN THE SKY!

IT'S HIM!

A SPECTACULAR ARRIVAL BY DAREDEVIL. WHICH ACCOUNTS FOR THE PRESENCE OF ALL OUR MAJOR PLAYERS EXCEPT ONE: THE PLAINTIFF'S LEAD ATTORNEY, MATT MURDOCK.

HE ALONE HAS YET TO ARRIVE FOR THIS, DAY ONE OF THE TRIAL OF DAREDEVIL.

ARE YOU READY FOR THIS?
ARE YOU?
FRANKLY? NO.
DON'T WORRY.
SOMETHING WRONG?
I'M NOT SURE...
STRANGE, MURDOCK'S NOT HERE YET. IT'S UNUSUAL TO BE LATE FOR A HIGH-PROFILE CASE LIKE THIS. I WONDER IF SOMETHING HAPPENED TO HIM?
MAYBE HE'S SICK.
IF SO, IT'LL BE A BREAK FOR US. MURDOCK'S BLINDNESS HAS ALWAYS GAINED HIM SYMPATHY WITH JURIES.
WHERE'S MURDOCK? WHY ISN'T HE HERE?
ACTUALLY, I WAS WONDERING THAT MYSELF...

WHEN THERE'S A RECESS, I'M GONNA HANG IN THE MEN'S ROOM AND GET HIS AUTOGRAPH. I MEAN, EVEN DAREDEVIL'S GOTTA GO, RIGHT?

FORGET IT, MAN. HE'S PROBABLY GOT A HOSE THING IN HIS SUIT -- YOU KNOW, LIKE THE ASTRONAUTS.

NO WAY. LOOK HOW TIGHT THAT COSTUME IS. THERE'S NO ROOM FOR A HOSE IN THERE!

DUDE, THE GUY'S TIGHT WITH REED RICHARDS. REED COULD HAVE INVENTED ONE THAT, LIKE, GOES INTO A DIFFERENT DIMENSION OR SOMETHING.

BOYS... THERE ARE PRIVATE RESTROOMS FOR THE PARTICIPANTS OFF THE JUDGE'S CHAMBERS.

OH.

I STILL SAY HE'S GOT A HOSE. WHAT IF HE HAD TO GO WHILE HE WAS FIGHTING THE JESTER OR SOMETHING?

LEAVE IT TO GUYS TO DISCUSS THE *IMPORTANT ISSUES* OF THE CASE.

IF MURDOCK DOESN'T SHOW UP, I'LL SUE *HIM!*

RELAX, GRIGGS. IF HE'S NOT HERE, HE'S GOT A GOOD REASON.

THIS CASE IS A SLAM DUNK NOW, AND I CAN WIN IT WITHOUT HIM. YOU'RE COVERED.

I STILL WANT MURDOCK HERE, DAMMIT! THAT'S WHAT I'M PAYING HIM FOR -- TO TRY THIS CASE! HIM, NOT YOU!

WE'RE A TEAM, GRIGGS: NELSON-MURDOCK. IF I'M GOOD ENOUGH FOR MURDOCK, I'M GOOD ENOUGH FOR YOU.

I DON'T PAY TOP DOLLAR FOR "*GOOD ENOUGH*". I PAY FOR THE BEST AND I EXPECT TO GET THE BEST!

SORRY! I GOT STUCK IN THE TRAFFIC JAM AROUND THE COURTHOUSE, THEN THE PRESS AMBUSHED THE CAB I WAS IN. THANK GOODNESS THE POLICE HELPED ME THROUGH THE GAUNTLET.

SO MUCH FOR OUR "BREAK".

I NEED TO ASK YOU SOMETHING.

YES?

HEAR YE, HEAR YE. ALL RISE FOR THE HONORABLE JUDGE JULIUS STEINBERG.

JUST WHO ARE YOU?

THE IDENTITY STAYS SECRET. YOU KNOW THAT.

THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEAN. YOU'RE WEARING HIS COSTUME, BUT YOU'RE NOT HIM. I CAN TELL.

YOUR VOICE. BODY LANGUAGE. MANNERISMS. CLOSE, BUT NO CIGAR.

JUST GO WITH IT. IT'S PART OF HIS PLAN.

IT'S THE FIRST I'VE HEARD OF IT. MAYBE I'D BETTER ASK HIM MYSELF.

IN THE MATTER OF GRIGGS VS. DAREDEVIL, THIS COURT IS NOW IN SESSION.

BAM BAM BAM

RING RING

MR. MURDOCK, CELL PHONE USE IS PROHIBITED IN MY COURTROOM, A FACT OF WHICH YOU SHOULD BE WELL AWARE!

MY APOLOGIES, YOUR HONOR. I FORGOT TO TURN IT OFF.

THAT APPLIES TO THE DEFENSE AS WELL, MS. VINOKUR.

SORRY, YOUR HONOR.

AND IT APPLIES TO EVERYONE IN THIS COURTROOM, ESPECIALLY MEMBERS OF THE PRESS. I WILL SAY THIS ONCE AND ONCE ONLY: ANYONE CAUGHT USING A CELL PHONE, BEEPER, OR DIGITAL DEVICE WILL BE PERMANENTLY EJECTED FROM THIS COURTROOM AND HAVE THE OFFENDING DEVICE CONFISCATED.

PROSECUTION MAY PROCEED WITH ITS OPENING STATEMENT.

TRIAL OF DAREDEVIL

OPENING STATEMENTS WERE MADE TODAY IN THE TRIAL OF DAREDEVIL, AS SEEN IN THESE ILLUSTRATIONS BY COURTROOM ARTIST DAVE ROSS...

"MATT MURDOCK LAID OUT HIS INTENTION TO SHOW THAT DAREDEVIL HAD DESTROYED THE GREENHOUSE OF SAMUEL GRIGGS WHILE PURSUING THIEVES ON THE NIGHT OF THE 8TH...

"FRANKLIN NELSON SAID HE'D PRESENT EVIDENCE OF OTHER PROPERTY DAMAGE BY DAREDEVIL THAT WOULD SHOW A PATTERN OF BEHAVIOR.

"DAREDEVIL REMAINED CALM THROUGH THE ACCUSATIONS...

"KATE VINOKUR REBUTTED, PROMISING TO PROVE THAT ALL THE SO-CALLED EVIDENCE WAS CIRCUMSTANTIAL AND THERE WAS NO SOLID PROOF OF HER CLIENT'S GUILT...

"THE JURY LISTENED INTENTLY AS SHE PROMISED TO SHOW THAT IN OTHER INCIDENTS, DAREDEVIL HAD PAID FOR ANY PROPERTY DAMAGE HE'D CAUSED.

"SHE PROMISED TO PROVIDE CHARACTER WITNESSES WHO WOULD ATTEST TO DAREDEVIL'S HISTORY OF RESPONSIBILITY AND PUBLIC SERVICE.

"AFTER A RECESS, MATT MURDOCK BEGAN THE PROSECUTION'S CASE BY PRESENTING EYEWITNESS STATEMENTS BY SAMUEL GRIGGS AND PAUL BRADLEE...

"AN ELMDALE POLICE DETECTIVE TESTIFIED AS TO THE DAMAGE TO GRIGGS' GREENHOUSE, AND REPAIR BILLS WERE PRESENTED TO SHOW THE COST OF THE REPAIRS.

"UNDER QUESTIONING FROM NELSON, EVIDENCE OF OTHER DAMAGE CAUSED BY DAREDEVIL WAS PROVIDED BY TED WERTZ AND THEN BY DR. JOHN MITAMURA...

"DAREDEVIL REMAINED UNFLUSTERED THROUGHOUT THE DAY, AND AT TIMES EXCHANGED SMILES WITH JURORS.

"FINALLY, AT CLOSING, NELSON PROMISED THE JURY THAT TOMORROW HE WOULD PRESENT A VIDEOTAPE THAT WOULD LEAVE NO DOUBT AS TO THE RECKLESS BEHAVIOR OF THE DEFENDANT."

RING RING

HELLO?

DAREDEVIL! WHERE ARE YOU? WHO WAS THAT SITTING NEXT TO ME ALL DAY?

YOU'RE DOING FINE, KATE, YOU'RE DOING FINE.

DAMMIT, DON'T PATRONIZE ME! I HAVE A RIGHT TO KNOW WHAT I'VE GOTTEN MYSELF INTO!

A MESS, THANKS TO ME. AND I HAVE A PLAN TO GET YOU OUT OF THAT MESS.

DID YOU FIND QUAID YET?

NO. AND I DON'T EXPECT I WILL -- AT LEAST NOT SO WE CAN CALL HIM AS A WITNESS.

THEN WHAT ARE YOU GONNA DO?

TRUST ME.

"TRUST ME?" THAT'S WHAT MY CAR SALESMAN TOLD ME! AND THAT CAR IS ALWAYS IN THE SHOP!

I CAN'T TELL YOU THE PLAN, KATE. IT'S FOR YOUR OWN GOOD. JUST PRESENT THE BEST DEFENSE YOU CAN.

DAMMIT, YOU CAN TELL ME EVERYTHING! I'M YOUR LAWYER! AND I'D LIKE TO THINK I'M YOUR FRIEND!

YOU *ARE* MY FRIEND. AND AS A FRIEND, I'M ASKING YOU TO GO WITH THIS. PACE YOUR PRESENTATION SO THAT MY CROSS-EXAMINATION WILL BEGIN FIRST THING THE DAY AFTER TOMORROW.

WILL IT BE YOUR CROSS-EXAMINATION? OR THE MASKED MAN SITTING NEXT TO ME, WHOEVER HE IS?

JUST CALL HIM "DAREDEVIL." GOOD NIGHT.

SOMETIMES I HATE BEING A LAWYER.

DAREDEVIL **25**

TODAY, DAMNING EVIDENCE AGAINST DAREDEVIL WAS PRESENTED BY SAMUEL GRIGGS'S ATTORNEYS -- A VIDEOTAPE SHOWING DAREDEVIL CONFRONTING GRIGGS IN HIS PRIVATE OFFICE WITH THE ASSERTION THAT GRIGGS HAD BEEN HYPNOTIZED BY THE MATADOR.

JUDGING FROM THEIR EXPRESSIONS, THE JURY SEEMS TO FIND THIS THEORY PREPOSTEROUS.

LATER, IT WAS THE DEFENSE'S TURN AS DAREDEVIL HIMSELF TOOK THE STAND AND DENIED UNDER OATH ANY INVOLVEMENT IN THE DAMAGE TO THE GRIGGS GREENHOUSE.

UNDER QUESTIONING FROM HIS ATTORNEY, DAREDEVIL MAINTAINED THAT, REGARDLESS OF THE MATADOR THEORY, NOTHING IN THE GRIGGS VIDEO INDICATED HE WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY PROPERTY DAMAGE.

FOR ANALYSIS, WE TURN TO GUEST LEGAL CONSULTANT, ATTORNEY CLAUDE UNGER. IS THIS TAPE, AS THE DEFENSE PUT IT, MERELY A "DISTRACTION FROM THE REAL ISSUE"?

TECHNICALLY, YES. HOWEVER, IT DOES SHOW DAREDEVIL ENGAGING IN WHAT MIGHT BE TERMED "UNBALANCED BEHAVIOR," WHICH COULD MAKE THE JURY DOUBT HIS VERACITY.

THE REAL FIREWORKS WILL BE TOMORROW, WHEN DAREDEVIL IS CROSS-EXAMINED -- I'LL BE CURIOUS TO SEE HOW HARD HE GETS HAMMERED.

DD ON TRIAL HIGHLIGHTS DAY 2

WMVL HAS LEARNED THAT FRANKLIN NELSON WILL BE DOING THIS "HAMMERING," NO DOUBT BECAUSE BLIND ATTORNEY MATT MURDOCK WOULD BE AT A SEVERE DISADVANTAGE ASKING ABOUT WHAT WAS SEEN ON A TAPE. DAREDEVIL'S CROSS-EXAMINATION BEGINS TOMORROW AT 9 A.M.

WHO IS THAT MASKED MAN?

PLAYING TO THE CAMERA PART SIX

PLEASE STATE YOUR NAME.

WHEN I'M IN THIS COSTUME, IT'S DAREDEVIL. ONE WORD.

AS WE BELIEVE IT HAS NO BEARING ON THE CASE, WE WILL RESPECT YOUR PRIVACY AND REFRAIN FROM QUESTIONS ABOUT YOUR OUT-OF-COSTUME IDENTITY.

THANK YOU, SIR.

YESTERDAY, YOU STATED THAT ON THE NIGHT OF THE 8th...

AFTER NEARLY AN HOUR, DAREDEVIL CONTINUES UNDER CROSS-EXAMINATION BY FRANKLIN NELSON. SO FAR, WE UNDERSTAND, THERE HAVE BEEN NO BOMBSHELLS.

BUT IN A CURIOUS DEVELOPMENT, MATT MURDOCK HAS BEEN ABSENT ALL MORNING. NO REASON FOR THIS ABSENCE HAS BEEN GIVEN, AND ONLY TIME WILL TELL WHETHER THIS WILL HAVE ANY EFFECT ON THE TRIAL.

NOW, DAREDEVIL, HAVE YOU EVER MET MISTER GRIGGS PRIOR TO THIS TRIAL?

NO, SIR.

WHAT ABOUT IN HIS OFFICE LAST WEDNESDAY?

I'VE NEVER BEEN TO MISTER GRIGGS'S OFFICE.

YOU'VE NEVER BEEN TO GRIGGS'S OFFICE? YOU DID SEE THE VIDEO I PLAYED FOR THE JURY YESTERDAY -- SHOWING A CONFRONTATION WITH MISTER GRIGGS IN HIS OFFICE?

YES, I DID.

AND HAVING SEEN THIS TAPE -- AND I REMIND YOU, YOU ARE UNDER OATH -- DO YOU DENY THAT IT WAS YOU ON THAT TAPE?

YES SIR, I DO.

THEN HOW DO YOU EXPLAIN IT?

OBVIOUSLY, IT WAS SOMEONE ELSE IN A DAREDEVIL COSTUME.

ARE YOU SERIOUSLY SUGGESTING THAT SOMEONE ELSE COULD HAVE PUT ON A DAREDEVIL COSTUME AND MARCHED INTO GRIGGS'S OFFICE LIKE THAT?

NO, SIR, I'M NOT SUGGESTING IT. I'M STATING IT. IN NO UNCERTAIN TERMS.

THAT WAS NOT ME.

HE'S LYING, DAMMIT!

OF COURSE IT WAS HIM!

MISTER GRIGGS, YOU'RE OUT OF ORDER!

CAN YOU PROVE IT, DAREDEVIL?

CAN YOU PROVE THAT IT WASN'T YOU?

ACTUALLY, I DON'T HAVE TO PROVE IT.

YOU HAVE TO PROVE IT *WAS* ME. AND YOU CAN'T, BECAUSE IT WASN'T.

DAMMIT, NELSON, YOU'RE SCREWING THIS THING UP! YOU'RE INCOMPETENT!

I WANT MURDOCK UP HERE CROSS-EXAMINING! YOU GET HIM IN HERE!

MISTER GRIGGS, THAT'S QUITE ENOUGH! ONE MORE OUTBURST, AND I'LL RULE YOU IN CONTEMPT!

YOUR HONOR!

YOUR HONOR, EXCUSE MY TARDINESS --

-- BUT STARTLING INFORMATION HAS COME TO OUR ATTENTION THAT MAY AFFECT THE OUTCOME OF THESE PROCEEDINGS!

MISTER MURDOCK, I AM NOT IMPRESSED BY THEATRICS --

YOUR HONOR, I STAKE MY REPUTATION ON THIS. IF, AFTERWARD -- YOU STILL WISH TO ACCUSE ME OF THEATRICS --

-- WITH GOD AS MY WITNESS, I WILL GO BEFORE THE NEW YORK BAR AND SURRENDER MY LICENSE TO PRACTICE.

AND YOU CLAIM THAT YOU'RE *NOT* BEING THEATRICAL? VERY WELL. PROCEED, MISTER MURDOCK.

THIS MORNING I RECEIVED A MYSTERIOUS PHONE CALL SUGGESTING THAT SOMEONE FROM MY OFFICE BE IN TIMES SQUARE WITH A VIDEO CAMERA AT 9:05 A.M. BECAUSE SOMETHING WOULD HAPPEN THAT COULD SERIOUSLY AFFECT THIS TRIAL.

I IMMEDIATELY DISPATCHED MS. KENDRICK THERE, WITH INSTRUCTIONS TO PICK ME UP AT THE OFFICE AFTERWARD.

OBVIOUSLY, I WAS UNABLE TO SEE THE TAPE MYSELF, BUT MS. KENDRICK IS GOING TO SHOW IT TO YOU NOW AND DESCRIBE WHAT SHE SAW.

SIMPLY PUT, I SAW DAREDEVIL.

WHAT?!?

AS YOU CAN SEE, HE IS ENGAGED IN HIS SIGNATURE ACROBATICS, AROUND A CLOCK DISPLAY SHOWING THE TIME AND TODAY'S DATE.

NOTE THAT THE TIME IS 9:07, AT WHICH TIME ANOTHER DAREDEVIL WAS BEING EXAMINED IN THIS COURTROOM.

OBVIOUSLY, ANYONE CAN PUT ON A DAREDEVIL COSTUME AND PRETEND TO BE DAREDEVIL. BUT THE QUESTION WE MUST ALL ADDRESS IS...

HOW CAN WE BE SURE THAT *HE'S* THE REAL DAREDEVIL?

BECAUSE WHO ELSE COULD DO --

-- THIS --

-- OR THIS --

ORDER! THIS IS A COURT OF LAW, NOT A CIRCUS!

-- OR THIS?

SO I NOW ASK YOU, MISTER MURDOCK:

HOW CAN YOU BE SURE THAT *THE DAREDEVIL ON MS. KENDRICK'S TAPE* IS REALLY DAREDEVIL?

STOP THE TRIAL!

IT'S TIME TO CLEAR THIS UP, ONCE AND FOR ALL!

MY NAME IS TERRENCE HILLMAN. YOU KNOW ME AS DAREDEVIL.

I WAS THE ONE WHO WRECKED MISTER GRIGGS'S GREENHOUSE. FOR THAT, I APOLOGIZE. AND I HAVE HERE A CASHIER'S CHECK FOR $50,000, PAYABLE TO SAMUEL GRIGGS, TO COVER THE DAMAGES.

HERE YOU ARE, SIR. NO HARD FEELINGS, I HOPE.

WAIT A MINUTE -- IF YOU'RE DAREDEVIL --

-- THEN WHO IS *THAT*?!

YOU, SIR, HAVE ALREADY SWORN UNDER OATH THAT YOU ARE DAREDEVIL. IF THIS IS UNTRUE, I CAN HOLD YOU IN CONTEMPT AND YOU CAN BE CHARGED WITH PERJURY!

Er...

WELL? WHAT DO YOU HAVE TO SAY FOR YOURSELF? ARE YOU OR ARE YOU NOT DAREDEVIL?

I'LL ANSWER THAT, YOUR HONOR. HE'S THE *NEW* DAREDEVIL.

I DON'T BELIEVE THIS...

I'VE BEEN TRAINING HIM FOR THE PAST FEW MONTHS BECAUSE I'VE DECIDED TO RETIRE -- THAT'S WHY I'M REVEALING MY IDENTITY HERE AND NOW.

WHO *IS* THIS GUY?

I HAVE NO IDEA...

... BUT I'M GLAD HE'S HERE. I THINK.

HOWEVER, DESPITE MY RETIREMENT, THIS CITY NEEDS A DAREDEVIL, AND SO, THROUGH MY SUCCESSOR HERE, THE CITY WILL *HAVE* A DAREDEVIL.

THIS IS THE MOST OUTRAGEOUS THING I'VE EVER SEEN IN A COURTROOM!

YOUR HONOR, DEFENSE WOULD LIKE TO MOVE FOR A MISTRIAL. OBVIOUSLY, THE WRONG MAN IS ON THE STAND.

ANY OBJECTIONS FROM THE PROSECUTION?

OBJECTIONS, GRIGGS?

AND IF YOU DO HAVE ANY OBJECTIONS, THIS *"INCOMPETENT"* ATTORNEY WILL KICK YOUR TAIL AROUND THIS COURTROOM AND THEN ALL THE WAY BACK TO LONG ISLAND.

UH... NO. NO OBJECTIONS.

NONE, YOUR HONOR.

PERSONALLY, I'VE GOT AN AWFUL LOT OF QUESTIONS ABOUT THIS...

BUT, SINCE THIS IS A TRIAL AND NOT AN INQUIRY, I'M NOT ALLOWED TO ASK THEM.

THEREFORE, I HEREBY DECLARE A MISTRIAL.

BEAUTIFUL.

NOW GET THIS COSTUMED CLOWN SHOW OUT OF MY COURTROOM!

DAREDEVIL? HOW ABOUT A STATEMENT?

LIKE THE MAN SAID, NEW YORK NEEDS A DAREDEVIL, AND DAREDEVIL'S ON THE JOB.

WHAT A ZOO!

I CAN'T WAIT TO TALK TO MATT ABOUT WHAT WENT DOWN.

BUT THAT'S FOR LATER...

RIGHT NOW THERE ARE PHOTO OPPORTUNITIES DOWN THERE THAT SHOULD NOT BE MISSED BY PETER PARKER.

ONE THING'S FOR SURE: BEING SPIDER-MAN IS A WHOLE LOT EASIER THAN BEING DAREDEVIL!

MISS VINOKUR? DO YOU HAVE A STATEMENT?
THE SURPRISING OUTCOME OF THIS TRIAL PROVES THAT MY CLIENT -- WHO WAS NOT MISTER HILLMAN -- WAS INNOCENT, AS WE'VE BEEN SAYING FROM THE BEGINNING.
DID YOU KNOW THAT THERE WAS MORE THAN ONE DD?
NO.
DID YOUR CLIENT LIE TO YOU ABOUT THAT?
NO. IT NEVER OCCURRED TO ME TO ASK, AND HE NEVER VOLUNTEERED THE INFORMATION.
DO YOU PLAN TO CONTINUE TO REPRESENT DAREDEVIL?
IT'S MY HOPE... AND PRAYER... THAT HE WON'T NEED ANY MORE REPRESENTATION.
WHAT ABOUT MISTER HILLMAN? DO YOU INTEND TO REPRESENT HIM?
NO, I DO NOT.
DO YOU HAVE ANY PLANS TO REPRESENT ANY OTHER SUPER HEROES?
YOU'VE GOTTA BE KIDDING.
MISTER MURDOCK, MISTER NELSON, WAS JUSTICE SERVED HERE TODAY?
OUR CLIENT, MISTER GRIGGS, IS SATISFIED WITH THE OUTCOME OF TODAY'S EVENTS. MS. VINOKUR AND HER CLIENT APPEAR TO BE EQUALLY SATISFIED. I THINK THE CONCLUSION TO BE DRAWN IS OBVIOUS.
DO YOU PLAN TO SUE ANY OTHER SUPER HEROES?
THIS CASE SHOWS HOW DIFFICULT IT IS TO BRING A LAWSUIT AGAINST A PERSON IN A MASK. CLEARLY, ANYONE CAN PUT ON SPANDEX AND CLAIM THE IDENTITY OF THE COSTUME.
SO THE SHORT ANSWER IS NO. THIS CASE HAS BEEN A MAJOR MIGRAINE TO MISTER MURDOCK AND MYSELF AND WE HAVE NO INTENTION OF TAKING ANY SIMILAR CASES.
AT LEAST NOT UNTIL WE'RE OFFERED ONE.
WHY DIDN'T YOU SETTLE THIS CASE EARLIER?
MY REASONS FOR THAT ARE A BIT TOO COMPLICATED TO EXPLAIN AT THIS TIME.
WHY ARE YOU RETIRING?
SUPER-HEROING TAKES A TREMENDOUS PHYSICAL TOLL. I'VE GOTTEN HURT A LOT IN MY CAREER, AND I REALIZED IT WAS STARTING TO CATCH UP TO ME -- BROKEN BONES, MUSCLE ACHES, BACK PROBLEMS. TIME TO HAND THE REINS OVER TO A YOUNGER MAN.
WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO NOW?
SPEAK OUT AGAINST CRIME. ENCOURAGE YOUNG PEOPLE TO FIGHT THE GOOD FIGHT. PERHAPS DO SOME WORK AS A SECURITY CONSULTANT. WRITE MY MEMOIRS.
WAS IT YOU WHO THREATENED GRIGGS IN HIS OFFICE LAST WEEK? OR YOUR SUCCESSOR?
WHAT ABOUT THE JESTER? WHICH DAREDEVIL FOUGHT HIM?
MY FRIENDS, THIS IS NEITHER THE TIME NOR THE PLACE TO ANSWER SPECIFIC QUESTIONS ABOUT MY CAREER. AFTER ALL, I NEED TO SAVE SOME OF IT FOR MY BOOK.
ARE WE TO UNDERSTAND THAT IN RETIRING YOU INTEND TO CASH IN?
MY FRIENDS, I'M NOT A WEALTHY MAN. THE FACT IS, I'M GOING TO NEED A SOURCE OF INCOME FOR THE FUTURE -- AFTER ALL, IT'S NOT LIKE WE SUPER HEROES HAVE A UNION WITH A RETIREMENT PLAN. IF ANYONE HAS A PROBLEM WITH THAT, DON'T BUY THE BOOK.
DO YOU HAVE A PUBLISHER?
NOT YET. BUT I THINK I'LL BE ABLE TO GET ONE.
WMVL

THIS PROVES WHAT I'VE BEEN SAYING FOR YEARS: WE DON'T KNOW WHO THESE MASKED CHARACTERS REALLY ARE. THERE COULD BE MULTIPLE VERSIONS OF THEM. AND I SAY, IF YOU CAN'T SEE SOMEONE'S FACE, THEN YOU CAN'T TRUST THEM!

PRELIMINARY REPORTS ARE THAT MISTER HILLMAN WAS A FORMER COLLEGE GYMNAST AND AN OUT-OF-WORK ACTOR. WMVL HAS LEARNED THAT ATTORNEY CLAUDE UNGER WILL BE REPRESENTING HILLMAN AND IS ALREADY WORKING ON BROKERING A BOOK DEAL FOR HILLMAN'S MEMOIRS...

WMVL NOW MAKES A SPECIAL LIMITED TIME OFFER: THE TRIAL OF DAREDEVIL SKETCHBOOK: ALL THE SKETCHES FROM OUR TEAM OF COURTROOM ARTISTS COMPILED IN A BEAUTIFUL KEEPSAKE ALBUM OF THIS HISTORIC EVENT.

THIS WILL BE THE ONLY TRUE VISUAL RECORD OF THE TRIAL OF DAREDEVIL, AND IT'S SURE TO BECOME A COLLECTOR'S ITEM. THE BOOK WILL INCLUDE QUALITY REPRODUCTIONS OF ILLUSTRATIONS LIKE THESE...

DON'T DELAY, ORDER YOUR COPY TODAY. ONLY $29.95 PLUS SHIPPING AND HANDLING, OR $19.95 ON CD-ROM!

I'M SEEING RED, AND I'M NOT TALKING ABOUT YOUR COSTUME!

I FEEL USED AND VIOLATED. WHAT THE HELL WAS ALL THAT? NEITHER ONE OF THOSE "*DAREDEVILS*" WAS YOU!

HILLMAN WAS JUST AS BIG A SURPRISE TO ME AS TO YOU, BUT THE ONE ON THE STAND WAS THERE AT MY BEHEST. MY INTENTION WAS TO APPEAR IN TWO PLACES AT ONCE -- WHICH I DID.

THAT ***WAS*** ME IN TIMES SQUARE THIS MORNING, A FACT WHICH I MADE SURE MATT MURDOCK WOULD BE AWARE OF.

I ASSUMED THAT BY CASTING DOUBT AS TO WHETHER THE MAN ON THE STAND WAS REALLY DAREDEVIL, IT WOULD CREATE ENOUGH REASONABLE DOUBT IN THE MINDS OF THE JURORS TO PREVENT A GUILTY VERDICT. ESPECIALLY IF IT CAME FROM THE OTHER SIDE.

YOU COULD HAVE TOLD ME!

AND THEN YOU WOULD HAVE BEEN A PARTY TO FRAUD BECAUSE YOU WOULD HAVE KNOWN BEYOND A SHADOW OF A DOUBT THAT THE DEFENDANT SITTING NEXT TO YOU WAS NOT REALLY DAREDEVIL. A LAWYER CAN BE DISBARRED FOR PERPETRATING FRAUD IN COURT.

I DIDN'T TELL YOU BECAUSE I WANTED TO PROTECT YOU.

YOU ALWAYS HAVE AN ANSWER, DON'T YOU?

SO WHO WAS THAT SITTING NEXT TO ME ALL WEEK?

IT'S BETTER THAT YOU NEVER KNOW.

DAREDEVIL, YOU CAN TELL ME! I'M STILL YOUR LAWYER, SO THE INFORMATION IS PROTECTED UNDER ATTORNEY-CLIENT PRIVILEGE!

I PROMISED HIM I WOULDN'T. AS FAR AS YOU'RE CONCERNED, HE'S SIMPLY THE NEW DAREDEVIL.

SO WHO'S THIS TERRENCE HILLMAN? OR IS THAT ANOTHER SECRET YOU'RE GOING TO KEEP FROM ME?

I HONESTLY HAVE NO IDEA ABOUT HILLMAN.

IS IT POSSIBLE HE'S INVOLVED WITH OUR MYSTERIOUS "*ARNOLD QUAID*"?

I DON'T KNOW...

YOU!!

YES... ME. THE *REAL* ME.

NOW, MISTER HILLMAN, YOU'VE GOT SOME EXPLAINING TO DO.

PLEASE! PLEASE DON'T HURT ME!

TELL ME WHY I SHOULDN'T.

BECAUSE I GOT YOU OFF! I WENT INTO HOCK BIG-TIME TO GET THAT $50G! I THOUGHT YOU'D THANK ME!

SO WHO PUT YOU UP TO IT?

NOBODY! IT WAS MY OWN IDEA!

AFTER I HEARD YOU MENTION ON TV THE POSSIBILITY OF A DAREDEVIL IMPERSONATOR, I FIGURED WHY NOT ME? AND IF I PAID OFF GRIGGS, EVERYONE WOULD BUY IT.

AND EXACTLY WHAT WOULD POSSESS YOU TO DO SUCH A THING?

PUBLICITY. ATTENTION. TO GET NOTICED. BE A HERO.

THE ACTING THING WASN'T WORKING OUT FOR ME, SO I FIGURED I'D BE ABLE TO MAKE SOME MONEY DOING APPEARANCES AS *"THE FORMER DAREDEVIL."* AND... WELL, THERE'S THIS GIRL I WANTED TO IMPRESS...

YOU MEAN YOU DID ALL THIS JUST SO YOU COULD *SCORE?*

WELL... YEAH.

ARE YOU GONNA EXPOSE ME?

I'LL LET SOMEBODY ELSE DO THAT. AND SOMEBODY WILL: LIVE BY THE MEDIA, DIE BY THE MEDIA. YOU KNOW, I MAY ACTUALLY ENJOY WATCHING YOU TRY TO BE ME.

UH ... ANY ADVICE?

YEAH.

TO MAKE THE FALL EASIER -- AND YOU *WILL* FALL-- GIVE AT LEAST FIFTY CENTS OF EVERY DOLLAR YOU MAKE TO CHARITY. YOU'LL CREATE GOOD WILL... AND YOU'LL PROBABLY SCORE SOME BIG POINTS WITH THAT GIRL.

YEAH. GOOD IDEA. I'LL DO IT.

OH, I KNOW YOU'LL DO IT, HILLMAN.

BECAUSE IF YOU DON'T DO IT... I'LL BE BACK.

YES, SIR.

I HOPE SHE'S WORTH IT.

YOU HAVE NO IDEA WHAT YOU'VE GOTTEN YOURSELF INTO.

I JUST HEARD HILLMAN'S GETTING A TWO-MILLION-DOLLAR ADVANCE ON HIS "*MEMOIRS*," PLUS PAID PUBLIC APPEARANCES.

HE'S GONNA CASH IN BIG ON MY CAREER.

WHAT'S GONNA HAPPEN WHEN ONE OF YOUR OLD ENEMIES DECIDES TO COME AFTER HIM?

HE'S ALREADY CREATED AN EXCUSE FOR FAILING. HE HAS BACK PROBLEMS, REMEMBER?

IT COULD BE WORSE, TAKE IT FROM ONE WHO KNOWS.

HOW'S THAT?

HE COULD BE A CLONE.

YEAH, THAT WOULD BE WORSE.

THE BIG THING THAT FRUSTRATES ME IS NOT KNOWING WHO WAS REALLY BEHIND IT. HAVING THE TRIAL TRUNCATED PROBABLY MESSED UP WHATEVER MY TRUE ADVERSARY HAD IN MIND...

... WHAT IF HE NEVER SHOWS HIMSELF?

RING RING

KATE?

YES. A LETTER JUST ARRIVED FOR YOU-- FROM ARNOLD QUAID.

AS YOUR CLIENT, I EMPOWER YOU TO OPEN IT AND READ IT TO ME.

"IT'S TIME WE MET. 458 GREEN AVENUE, SUITE 301. NEWARK. THREE P.M. ALONE-- ARNOLD QUAID."

BE CAREFUL.

YOU WANT ME TO TAG ALONG?

NO. I'LL PLAY IT STRAIGHT.

301

RIGHT ON TIME.

THE DOCTOR WILL SEE YOU NOW.

ARNOLD QUAID?

ANATOMY

NO, ACTUALLY QUAID'S JUST A PSEUDONYM.

MAYNARD TIBOLDT, *THE RINGMASTER.* I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN IT WAS YOU.

NICELY PLAYED, DAREDEVIL. BRINGING IN Mr. HILLMAN WAS BRILLIANT.

WELL, THAT PROVES HILLMAN WAS JUST A LOOSE CANNON.

AND THE POINT OF ALL THIS, RINGMASTER?

MY, YOU'RE SO CALM AND COLLECTED... AREN'T YOU GOING TO THREATEN ME? RESORT TO PHYSICAL VIOLENCE AGAIN? BEAT THE ANSWERS OUT OF ME?

NO, I ASSUME YOU HAVE A HIDDEN CAMERA SOMEWHERE, SO I'LL LET YOU OR ILSA ATTACK ME FIRST.

NOT GOING TO HAPPEN. BUT, SINCE YOU'RE BEING SO CIVIL ABOUT IT --

--I'LL BE POLITE AND GIVE YOU THOSE ANSWERS. YOU'VE EARNED THEM.

FIRST OFF, IT WAS ILSA WHO VANDALIZED GRIGGS' GREENHOUSE THAT NIGHT, BUT GRIGGS NEVER SAW ANY OF IT BECAUSE AS "*ARNOLD QUAID*," I REPROGRAMMED HIS MEMORIES.

IN FACT, I SELECTED GRIGGS BECAUSE HE HAD THE PERFECT PERSONALITY PROFILE FOR THIS: SELF-RIGHTEOUS AND LITIGIOUS.

AND THEN GRIGGS REGULARLY REPORTED ALL DEVELOPMENTS IN THE LAWSUIT TO "*QUAID*," AND YOU REACTED ACCORDINGLY.

EXACTLY.

THAT'S WHY I RECRUITED PAUL BRADLEE AND MIGUEL ELOGANTO-- WHO, LIKE GRIGGS, WERE PROGRAMMED TO REMEMBER EVENTS THAT NEVER HAPPENED.

I MADE ELOGANTO HONESTLY BELIEVE HE ***WAS*** ARNOLD QUAID... A BELIEF THAT WAS PROGRAMMED TO ERASE ITSELF UPON HIS FIRST ENCOUNTER WITH GRIGGS.

BUT WHAT WAS IN IT FOR YOU?

HOW DID YOU PROFIT FROM ALL THIS?

I DIDN'T.

IT WAS SIMPLY A TEST.

A TEST?!

YES. OF SOME NEW TECHNOLOGY I'VE DEVELOPED, TO CREATE ***ULTIMATE FALSE MEMORY SYNDROME.*** JUST LIKE IN THAT MOVIE, *"TOTAL RECALL"* -- HENCE THE NAMES *"ARNOLD"* AND *"QUAID."*

YOUR GAG'S WASTED ON ME, TIBOLDT. I NEVER SAW IT.

ANATOMY

IT'S WORTH SEEING.

REGARDLESS, SOMEDAY I INTEND TO USE THIS TECHNOLOGY ON A MUCH LARGER SCALE. THE TEST WAS SUCCESSFUL -- AND MOST ENTERTAINING.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR PARTICIPATION.

WELL, THAT WAS A REAL EGO BOOST.

I CAN'T EVEN GO BACK IN THERE AND ARREST HIM. LIKE ELOGANTO SAID IN THE OFFICE, THERE'S NO LAW AGAINST IMPLANTING FALSE MEMORIES.

AND IT'S SO DIABOLICALLY BRILLIANT THAT NO ONE WHO WASN'T INVOLVED COULD POSSIBLY BELIEVE IT.

I CAN'T EVEN GO PUBLIC WITH IT -- I'D BE BRANDED A PARANOID CONSPIRACY NUTCASE.

IT WAS *THE RINGMASTER?*

AND HE WAS JUST TOYING WITH US ALL? LIKE RATS IN A MAZE?

BASICALLY, YES.

OH, THAT'S RIDICULOUS. I CAN HARDLY BELIEVE IT MYSELF.

I'M PRETTY SURE HE WAS COUNTING ON THAT, WHICH IS WHY I DIDN'T TRY TO ARREST HIM.

I'M GLAD YOU'RE ACTING RESPONSIBLY. BECAUSE THERE'S NO LAW AGAINST CREATING FALSE MEMORIES --

-- AND I'D HATE TO HAVE TO DEFEND YOU IN *THAT* SUIT.

SO HOW ABOUT I BUY YOU A DRINK? OR DINNER?

WE SHOULD CELEBRATE THE END OF THIS CASE.

NO THANKS. I'VE SEEN ENOUGH MASKED MEN FOR A WHILE.

BESIDES, HOW CAN I BE COMPLETELY SURE WHICH DAREDEVIL I WAS GOING OUT WITH?

C'MON, KATE, I EXPLAINED WHY I HAD TO KEEP IT A SECRET.

YES, YOU DID. AND I EXPLAINED WHY I'D PREFER TO PASS ON THAT DRINK.

RIGHT.

ALL THIS TIME, ENERGY AND MONEY SPENT AND NOTHING WAS ACCOMPLISHED --

-- EXCEPT THE DEPRESSING REALIZATION THAT WE WERE ALL PAWNS OF THE RINGMASTER... AND SOMEDAY HE'S GONNA TRY TO BRAINWASH THE WORLD.

YOU'RE WRONG, FOGGY. GRIGGS IS DONATING $200,000 TO HELP A WHOLE LOT OF BLIND KIDS.

HILLMAN SAYS HE'S GONNA DONATE MONEY TO CHARITY AS WELL.

UNGER IS HILLMAN'S ATTORNEY, WHICH EVENTUALLY WILL CAUSE HIM ALL SORTS OF AGGRAVATION.

WE'RE GETTING PAID. THE CASE HAS ENHANCED OUR REPUTATION. AND MY SECRET IDENTITY COULDN'T BE SAFER.

AND YOU MET KATE.

YES. AND I MET KATE.

YOU LIKE HER, DON'T YOU?

YEAH...

ALTHOUGH AFTER ALL THIS, I DOUBT SHE WANTS TO HAVE ANYTHING MORE TO DO WITH ME. I'M NOT EVEN SURE IF I SHOULD CALL HER AGAIN...

DON'T WORRY, SHE'LL CALL YOU.

HOW CAN YOU BE SO SURE?

BECAUSE SHE'LL RATIONALIZE AND GET OVER IT. LAWYERS ALWAYS DO.

BESIDES... SHE'S GOTTA GIVE YOU HER BILL.

Heh.

HA HA HA HA

HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA

THE END

SPIDER-MAN/DAREDEVIL 1

Peter Parker is

SPIDER-MAN

A freak encounter with a radioactive spider granted young Peter abilities beyond his wildest dreams, transforming him from an awkward teen into one of the greatest heroes the world will ever know.

No stranger to tragedy, Parker retains an unmatched enthusiasm for life and lives his by a simple code passed down to him by his beloved uncle...

"WITH GREAT POWER COMES GREAT RESPONSIBILITY."

Matt Murdock is

DAREDEVIL

A samaritan act stole Matt's sight, while secretly granting unbelievable strength to his remaining senses. Blessed and cursed by this event, Murdock protects Hell's Kitchen with a fury and passion worthy of the costume he wears.

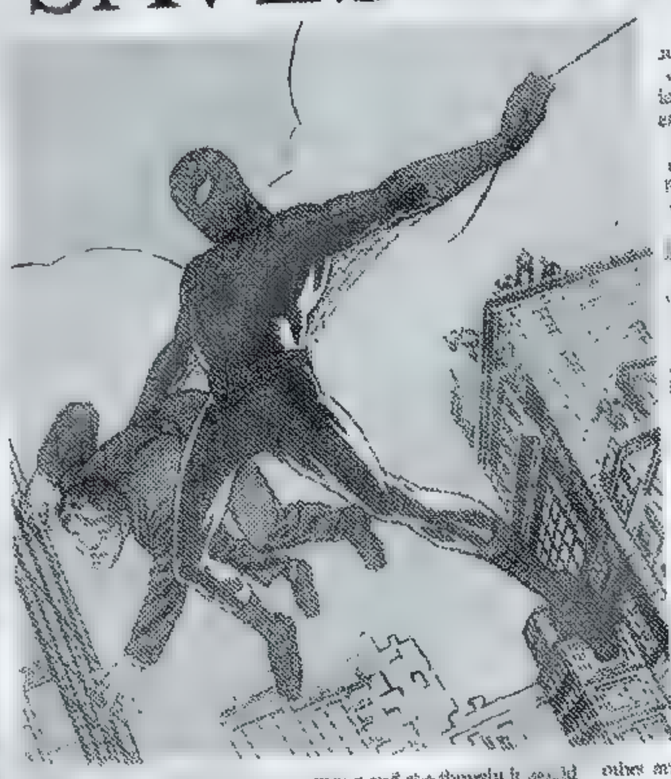
His is a world of perpetual darkness, where whispers are shouts and good and evil bleed together. He is...

"THE MAN WITHOUT FEAR"

New York is the city both call home.
The story that follows is but one night in their lives...

"NEIGHBORS"

SPIDER-MAN SAVES DAY, LIVES



...ample samples of ... and a map to ... libraries ... and ... hours. ... a nice ... penny and ... special Mother ... knack, sponsor ... Georgian ...

... artists' ...

... that here, ... we have ... of ...

... admissions ... will have ...

... ample samples of ... and a map to ... available at ... libraries and ... Vaughan, ... the Internet ... and ... hours. ... a nice ... penny and ... special Mother ... knack, sponsor ... Georgian ...

... artists will display pieces ... at the group's ... and acrylic.

One artist on the tour is Leah Winemaker, who specializes in handmade glass beads.

"I get my inspiration from nature, life experiences, spirituality, fantasy, love," said Ms Winemaker, who has been part of the group since 1999.

Using glass, Ms Winemaker creates beads that are "strong on aesthetics in a variety of shapes, sizes and themes."

She is known for the crystal ... on her beads.

"I have pieces that are ... beads that people use as ... amulets, people buy ladybugs for good luck or bumble bees for courage or seven angels," she said.

Ms Winemaker is the first person in Canada to teach lampworking, a technique using a torch, oxygen and propane to melt colourful rods. When heated, molten glass is sculpted and layered.

She is currently teaching in Scarborough where courses are ... booked.

While she has been featured in a variety of well-known art magazines, Ms Winemaker is looking forward to this community event.

... artists will feature pieces in oil, photography, watercolour and acrylic.

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Also: Daredevil Thwarts Robbery, Page Seven

... among that here, ... we have such ... local artists," she said.

... woman who was the part of ... of an ... of Vaughan ... on ... for information ... who ... We're planning ... lampwork ... and ... to the Royal ... and ...

... by the Winemaker ... to ... more ... cases and ...

... to the past, a portion ... proceeds will be ... Last year, the group ... art department of ... schools. This year, the ... will be given to Thornhill ... school.

... create because it's a ... well. It's to give ... the community," Ms ... said.

... there's an artist in ... Winemaker, who specializes in handmade glass beads.

... Winemaker, who has been part of the group since 1999.

... Using glass, Ms. Winemaker creates beads that are strong on ... in a variety ... shapes, sizes and themes.

... known for the crystal ... on her ...

... Because with ... each artists' work and ... each studio are ... sunny colours, ... walls in Markham and ... as well as on the ... Thornhill's hyperma ... at various ... positions.

"It's a good cause ... thing to take a ... amazing way to open ... Day," said Kyle ... from Skylar Media ...

Mrs. Roseman has ... for the four ... years ... talking to a fellow ... parish, there are a ... shows and she thought ... be a good idea to ...

"I think it's nice ... come to Thornhill ... work at home, so it's ... what is going on in ... ring," she said.

People are invited ... individual studios ... free ... activ...

WE BEGIN TONIGHT'S NEWS ON A SAD NOTE...

A SIX-YEAR-OLD CHILD WAS KIDNAPPED FROM HER OWN BACKYARD THIS AFTERNOON.

THE TRAGIC DAYLIGHT ASSAULT OCCURRED JUST HOURS AGO IN QUEENS. THOUGH AUTHORITIES ARE NOT YET PREPARED TO MAKE AN OFFICIAL STATEMENT, OUR SOURCES INDICATE THAT A CRUDE RANSOM NOTE WAS FOUND AT THE SCENE.

CARLSO'S CORNER

NAILS

THERE IS NO WORD YET ON THE NUMBER OF ASSAILANTS OR THE DETAILS OF THEIR DEMANDS...

TAXI

...AND AS OF THIS HOUR NO LEADS HAVE DEVELOPED AS TO THEIR POSSIBLE WHEREABOUTS.

WE'LL HAVE MORE ON THIS HEARTBREAKING STORY AS IT DEVELOPS.

NOVELTY HARRY

NOW, TO SPORTS.

CHECK.

2

HER ROOM.

IT'S COLD.

MOMMY

STEEP AND SHORT.

THE WORK OF LITTLE HANDS.

THE STING OF SALT IN MY NOSTRILS.

THEY'RE CRYING DOWNSTAIRS.

FORGET IT.

OPEN UP, MATT.

SOAK IT ALL IN.

C'MON NEW YORK, YOU KNOW THE WORDS...

FRIENDLY.

NEIGHBORHOOD.

SPIDER-MAN.

THAT'S THE STUFF.

GOT THAT FEELING IN MY BONES, LIKE TONIGHT'S GONNA BE A BIG ONE.

MY SPIDER-SENSE IS TINGLING AND I DON'T THINK IT'S THAT NEW TWO-IN-ONE SHAMPOO I'VE BEEN USING.

THOUGH I HAVE NOTICED LESS FLAKES.

SO WHAT IS IT?

A BANK HEIST?

THE SINISTER SIX OUT ON DO-IT-YOURSELF PAROLE?

WINONA IN TOWN ON A SHOPPING TRIP?

THE SUSPENSE IS KILLING ME...

AND DON'T THINK THAT YOUR BEING AN INANIMATE OBJECT IS GONNA STOP MY ASKING...

...BECAUSE I'M NOT EXACTLY LARGE WITH THE DETECTIVE WORK THESE DAYS.

I PRETTY MUCH JUST CLIMB UP TALL STUFF AND WAIT FOR PEOPLE TO YELL "*HELP.*"

HENCE THE BIG BUILDING AND ATTENTIVE POSTURE.

LET'S GET IT ON.

UH, THAT WAS QUICK.

SHOULDA ASKED FOR BRITNEY SP --

OH.

HEY GUYS.

UH...

BUY LOW, SELL HIGH.

GOOD LOOKS, DARING-DO, *AND* MARKET ADVICE...

...TRY GETTING ALL THAT FROM THE HULK.

CAR EXHAUST.

THE M TRAIN.

A NOISY COUPLE MAKING LOVE IN QUEENS.

STREET PRETZELS.

THE CLOSING NUMBER OF LES MISERABLES.

METS UP BY TWO IN THE SEVENTH.

THE SCRATCH OF PIGEON FEET.

MONEY.

SEWAGE.

SWEAT.

ISOLATE.

INTERPRET.

PROCESS.

NOTHING.

EVERYTHING AND NOTHING.

THAT'S WHY GOD GAVE YOU LEGS, MATT.

I'M LOOKING FOR SOME INFORMATION.

I HEARD YOU MIGHT HELP.

YEAH?

YEAH.

I WOULDN'T HATE A WHISKEY, EITHER.

YOUR FUNERAL POPS.

BEHIND YOU...

"...TABLE AT THE BACK."

BUY YOU A DRINK?

AND WHY WOULD YOU WANT TO DO THAT?

IT'S SOMETHING YOU NEED.

SOMETHING I HAVE THE MEANS TO PROVIDE.

SUITS ME.

ERIN'S IRISH.

DISTINGUISHED CHOICE.

YEAH.

I'M FULLA CULTURE.

SPAK

BULLS EYE!

TO RECAP THE EVENING FOR THOSE SCORING AT HOME:

AND NOT THE CRAZY, I'M-GONNA-KILL-YOU-WITH-A-TOOTHPICK KIND.

A GRAND THEFT AUTO, TWO OLD-SCHOOL MUGGINGS, AND ONE INDECENT EXPOSURE I'M NOT GONNA FORGET FOR THE REST OF MY LIFE.

THWIP

I STILL DON'T BELIEVE THAT GUY'S SWEATER WASN'T A SWEATER.

THWIP

BESIDES, ACTUALLY GETTING A DECENT NIGHT'S SLEEP FOR ONCE SOUNDS KINDA --

NOT EXACTLY THE BIG NIGHT I WAS EXPECTING, BUT HEY...

I'M LITTLE.

HELP!

-- UNREALISTIC.

WHAT DO YOU WANT?

NOTHING MORE THAN I'VE OFFERED YOU.

SOMETHING I NEED THAT YOU HAVE THE MEANS TO PROVIDE.

THAT SO?

A CHILD WAS KIDNAPPED TODAY.

I'VE BEEN LED TO BELIEVE YOU MIGHT KNOW SOMETHING ABOUT IT.

YOU'RE CRAZY, OLD MAN.

BUT YOU'RE RIGHT ABOUT ONE THING...

I DO HAVE SOMETHING YOU NEED.

URK.

EVERYONE LEAVE.

THAT INCLUDES YOU.

FORGET IT, DAREDEVIL. I'VE SEEN WHAT YOU DO TO GUYS LIKE THIS.

HE DOESN'T TELL YOU EVERYTHING, YOU'LL TURN HIS FACE INTO ***HAMBURGER.***

MIGHT EVEN ***KILL*** HIM, HE DOESN'T COOPERATE.

I WON'T WATCH YOU DO THIS.

NEITHER WILL I.

SO...

LET'S TALK.

MICRO

HE TALK?

YES.

GOOD COP, BAD COP. BIT NEVER GETS OLD.

I COULD COVER IT, YOU KNOW. THE STORY. GET YOU SOME GOOD PRESS. LET PEOPLE IN ON SOME OF THE STUFF YOU DO.

THE STUFF THEY DON'T HEAR ABOUT...

SEE YOU ON PAGE SEVEN, MATTY.

ALL RIGHT, TOUGH GUY. WE CAN DO THIS WHITE COLLAR OR BLUE COLLAR.

BUT EITHER WAY, *I'M TAKING YOU DOWN.*

YOWCH!

ALL RIGHT, MR. KITTY... THIRD TIME'S THE CHARM.

SAY "THWIP".

YOU GUYS MIGHT WANT TO KEEP YOUR WINDOWS SHUT AT NIGHT FROM NOW ON. NOT TO MENTION GETTING A DOG.

THE WEBBING'LL WEAR OFF IN AN HOUR.

KITTY'S STICKY.

ENJOY IT WHILE IT LASTS.

AND NOW, UNLESS EITHER OF YOU TWO KNOWS SOMEONE WHO NEEDS THEIR GUTTERS DRUDGED OR TOILET PLUMBED, I'M OFF TO CONTINUE MY INCREDIBLY HEROIC EVENING --

THERE IS *ONE* THING...

YOU UNDERSTAND I WAS KIDDING ABOUT THE TOILET.

WE SAW SOME STUFF EARLIER. BUNCH OF STRANGE GUYS. THERE WAS YELLING.

AND CRYING.

YEAH. THAT, TOO.

WE TOLD OUR MOM --

SHE DIDN'T BELIEVE US.

I BELIEVE YOU.

SHOW ME WHERE.

THUG COULDN'T STOP TALKING.

I'M GOING TO SMELL HIS BREATH FOR DAYS.

IRISH WHISKEY.

THERE.

THERE YOU ARE.

I FEEL YOU.

FINALLY, I'VE FOUND YOU.

YOUR HEART.

IT'S RACING.

SO IS MINE.

AND NOW YOU'RE MOVING.

FAST.

YOU'RE SCARED.

DESPITE THE NICKNAME, I AM TOO.

OUR LITTLE SECRET.

JUST HOLD ON.

I'M COMING.

IT HITS ME LIKE A SLEDGEHAMMER.

THE SMELL.

NOT ANOTHER ONE!

THAT INDESCRIBABLE WEB SMELL.

JUST A KID.

NOTHING SPECIAL.

ONE.

KID.

YOU'RE NOT HERE.

YOU'RE THERE.

THE BOTH OF YOU.

I WAS WRONG.

YOU WEREN'T SCARED...

... YOU WERE HAVING THE TIME OF YOUR LIFE.

YAHOOO!

I COULD KILL HIM FOR PULLING A STUNT LIKE THIS WITH A CHILD...

SPIDER-MAN.

...IF EVERYTHING ABOUT HER WASN'T SCREAMING OUT TO ME THAT SHE WAS LOVING EVERY SINGLE SECOND OF IT.

HORNHEAD.

LOVE THE RED.

I'D NEVER TELL HIM THIS...

...BUT THAT GUY CRACKS ME UP.

THANKS FOR MY HORSIE.

DON'T MENTION IT.

AND BETWEEN YOU AND ME, IT WAS SUPPOSED TO BE A GIRAFFE.

HOLD ON TO THE LAUGHTER.

TONIGHT'S LITTLE REWARD.

IT FADES TOO QUICK.

911 EMERGENCY. WHAT IS YOUR EMERGENCY?

TRACE THIS CALL. SEND UNITS.

IT'S SPIDER-MAN --

THE CHILD FROM THE NEWS. SHE'S SAFE.

AS FOR YOU -- YOU EVER THINK TO PUT A CHILD IN THE WAY OF HARM AGAIN...

FOR AS LONG AS YOU LIVE

-- IT'LL BE ***ME*** THAT COMES FOR YOU.

Babe Ruth

6:11

DAILY GLOBE

SPIDER-MAN RESCUES KIDNAPPED CHILD!

END

DAREDEVIL **51**

MY NAME
MY NAME IS
MAYA LOPEZ.

I'm NOT SURE IF
I'M STILL
PERSON.

THE NEWSPAPER
CALLED ME ECHO.

THATS WHAT I
FEEL LIKE.

AN
ECHO.

THIS
IS
MY
STORY.

IT
DOESN'T HAPPEN IN WORDS.
IT HAPPENS IN MOVEMENTS AND MEMORIES.
@HEART AND FEELINGS.

I M
D E A F

So if something does HAPPEN IN WORDS,

it doesn't HAPPEN IN THE Sound of words,

BUT IN the Color of them.

THE Mood AND texture

AND MYSTERY of their CROSSWORD PUZZLE MEANINGS.

The kind that you feel instead of hear.

Sometimes slow and awkward.

MY Story HAPPENS IN MUSIC.

Like Little Fingers ON WOOD

Searching for meaning.

Me

Matt

I Drew on this ASHED at Music

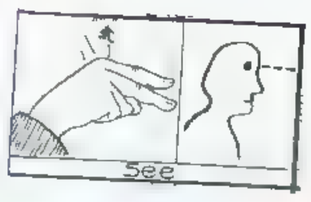
My story doesn't happen in the sound of the notes but in the silence between them.

It is the silence between the notes that is important.

THAT IS WHERE

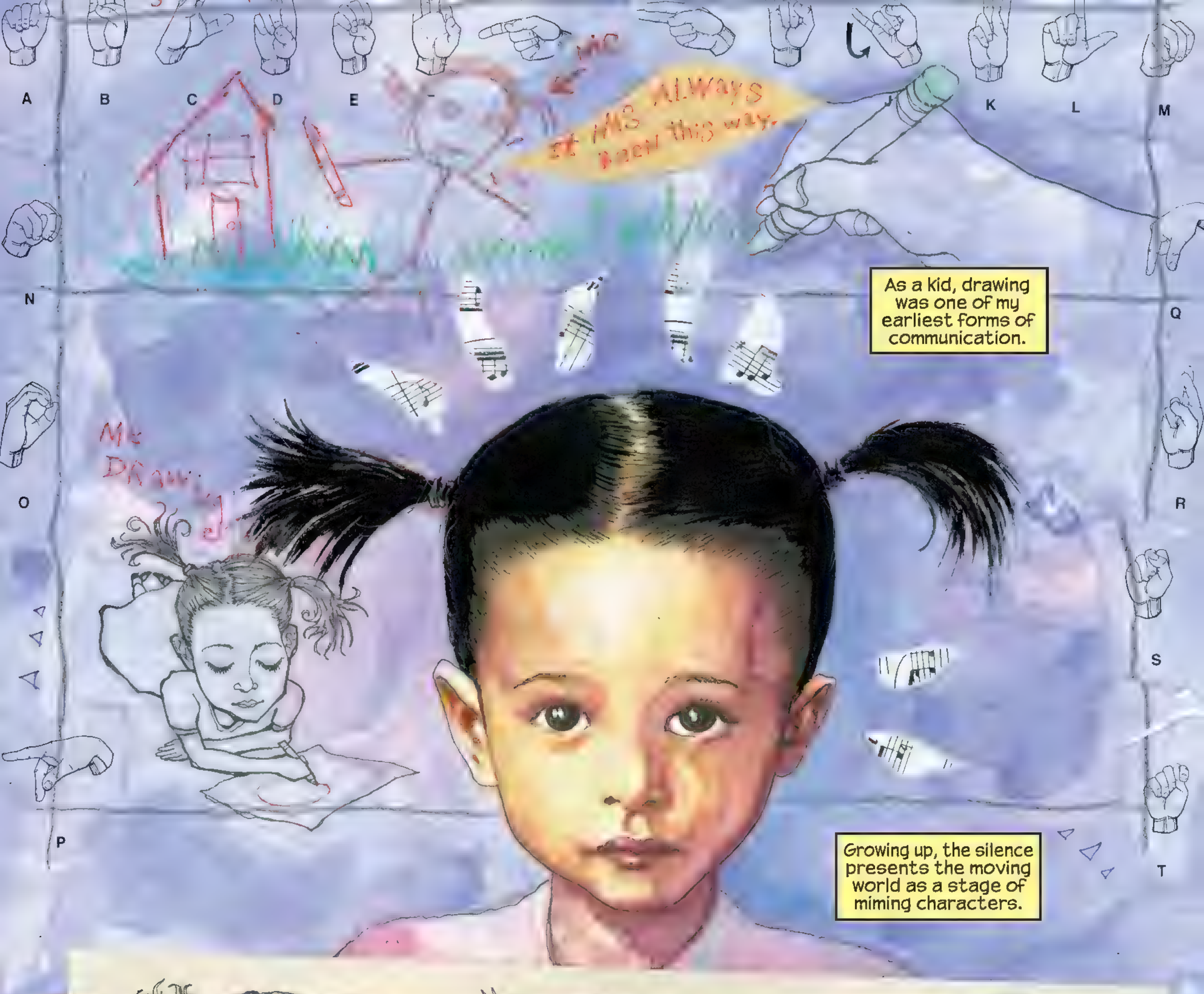
THE MAGIC HAPPENS.

ECHO PART ONE



That Silence is where you will find me.

Living between the notes, the silence is an alternate dimension that exists encrypted within the audible world.


A
B
C
D
E
K
L
M
N
Q
O
R
S
P
T
U
IT HAS ALWAYS BEEN THIS WAY.
As a kid, drawing was one of my earliest forms of communication.
ME DRAWING
Growing up, the silence presents the moving world as a stage of miming characters.
Dad
HA HA HA
Mom
Mr. Fisk
The Chief
THIS HAPPENS LATER.
UH-OH!

My life is a foreign film with no subtitles.

You are forced to learn the language.

When you've never heard your father's voice...

you learn to decipher every shade of expression...

Do expressions make noise?

that moves over his face.

His lips mouth to you the silent Secrets of the Universe. And you wonder, if you could hear, if the world of sounds was open to you... What kind of glorious Music would His Smile make?

Body language, too, begins to whisper its meaning...

in subtleties no hearing person could ever comprehend.

And you begin to pick up on this grammar.

You become sensitive to it.

And you learn to speak it through your own movements.

First by mimicry of lips, facial and bodily expressions.

Then you apply this sensibility to everything.

Your eye and mind become keen to the intricate voices and textures of the visual and tactile World moving around You.

The poetry of it speaks to you.

It calls to you.

And sometimes...

Sometimes you answer back.

DJJ'S GUN

I draw things everywhere.

Not just on paper.

Even on the wall at School for Show and tell.

MAYA

It was a long time before anyone realized that I was deaf.

!!!

THE teacher says...

DON'T

Very early on in my life, I was diagnosed and labeled by a certain word I had come to recognize on people's lips.

LABEL

But my father never told me to stop. He would laugh and laugh at the things I would do.

He didn't care if I never spoke with words.

He didn't care if I was retarded.

I was sent to a special school where I quickly learned to read the lip movements for:

MAYA ANGELOU

Later on, when I realize there is this thing called sound, I will ask my father all kinds of questions, like:

What does Laughter Sound like?

What Sound does grass make?

When I hear that rain makes a sound, I will ask:

What Sound do the clouds make?

Does the Sunshine make a noise?

What does the Rainbow Sound like?

When I ask him these things it makes him laugh and cry at the same time.

And then I ask what that sounds like.

From time to time, when my father would get into trouble, he'd go to what he'd call "The Reservation."

"The Rez."

It wasn't a conventional reservation for a particular tribe, but what seemed like an interzone of all tribes.

A place where various nations of indigenous Americans seemed to pass through, some staying for a while...

some moving on, some returning when they need a place to stay.

Sometimes he'd take me with him.

All I have for sure are my own crude childhood memories of the place.

An amber recall faded and brittle with time.

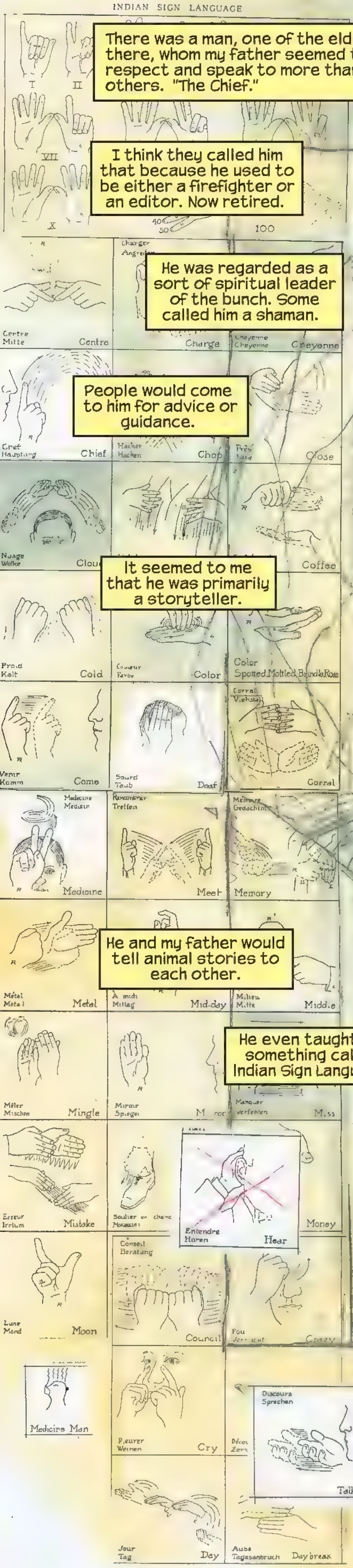
A swirl of sun-lined faces sculpted in the firelight.

Stories of legends on their lips.

Many of the Indians, in a variety of tribes, have stated that in former times the sign language was the one common and universal means of communication between all the tribes of American Indians who spoke different vocal languages. As he expressed it, "All the old people in all the tribes used it."

Little Raven, the former head chief of the Southern Arapahoes, said in regard to use of gestures: "I have met Comanches, Kiowas, Apaches, Caddos, Gros Ventres, Crows, Pawnees, Osages, Arickarees, Nez Perces, Cherokees, Choctaws, Chickasaws, Sacs and Foxes, Pottawattomies, and other tribes whose vocal languages, like those of the tribes named, we did not understand, but we communicated freely in sign language."

One very wide difference between the Indian Sign Language and the signs used by deaf and dumb, is shown in the word THINK. The originators of the Indian signs thought that thinking or understanding was done with the heart, and made the sign 'drawn from the heart". Deaf mutes place extended fingers of the right hand against the forehead, to give the same meaning.



I am a Storyteller because I can say things in ways that others will understand the true meaning. You are like that. You see things in ways others do not. You are also a Storyteller. You have many talents.

How do you know to be this?

this kind of Storyteller.

I went on a vision quest.

What's a vision quest?

#If we really want to know ourselves, we must at some point in our lives connect with a higher wisdom that knows all about us. Our weaknesses, our mistakes, our potentials.

Many Native American tribes do this through our meditation known as a vision quest.

The setting aside of a time and place, alone in nature, to connect with the higher power and explore that which is within. Somewhere in that space of time as we are questing, answers come. It's an opportunity to know more about ourselves and our choices in life.

What sound do clouds make?

That is the last time we visit the Rez together.

I remember that the characters in tribes and the legends make me think of super HeroeS.

The chief tells stories of power and responsibility.

When I was learning to read and speak, I learned a lot from comic books. Mythic Scale Quests that tell truth Through metaphor. THE WORD

On the way home, i'm retelling the chief's stories to my father. Now I begin to understand the ideas behind the story telling.

I tell my father that I will be a story teller too.

He sighs ays

ant that already am.

But I say that I must learn my own language to tell my stories. More than signs. More than sounds. More than words.

But I Say that I must learn my own language to tell my Stories. More than Sign More than

Pass on my stories through my own medium like the comic book artist. So that you can understand, even if you don't hear like me.

Even if you don't know what sound clouds make, you could feel my stories.

I will be my own kind of story shaman. I will be my own fire chief.

I will learn to speak in pictures.

Discovery

Power

Great Spirit Everywhere

My father laughs and laughs his big house-shaking laugh. It is the kind of laugh that I feel in my bones... even when he has finished. Is that what an echo is?

Before I go to sleep, he tells me a story and laughs some more.

That is the last time I ever feel his laughter.

That's not true. I still feel it now.

This story is his story. My history.

He is the vibration on the piano keys. I am just the silence between them.

I'm nine years old when my father dies.

I Remember Being in the ambulance.

He puts His Hand on my face.

Then it falls lifeless. and He leaves me with only His echo.

Does Sadness make a noise?

If it does, and if I wasn't deaf, I'd hear it very loudly right now.

Remember when I said this would happen later?

Well this happened too.

Bad

Heart

In the worst way that you can't imagine.

And this.

And this.

And this.

And also this

I don't Hear THiS. I only Feel it. All thru my body like my Father's CrAzy laughter

Death

I did it

But I'm not going to talk about that.

These are Parts of a Hole in my Heart that I need to fill

Tränen
Loch
Hole

Schmerz
Wachsen
Grow
Herz
Heart

First I will bury the Worst Parts of my memory, the dead parts of my Heart, in the HOLE. Then I will cover it up and plant Something inside it. Something that will GROW.

But I'm not sure if the dead parts will stay buried.

I'm done with them. But I don't think they are done with me.

There are only a couple things that you need to know.

The first is: I met this really great guy. Someone that I could relate to.

The other thing is: Someone I trusted tried to manipulate me.

Strong

And they did it by using the emotions that I have for my father. And I think they also betrayed my father as well.

And I did something about that.

I did it

I did it but what I did destroyed my relationship with this guy.

Believe it or not, I wrote a play about it.

I left the country and I

Sometimes I frame my memories as paintings and I've been working on this Brothers Son.

In the meantime, I travel the world and try to learn stuff.

Mostly, I think I'm hoping to learn about myself.

I have issues. I'm trying to sort things out.

I fall back into one of my earliest loves as a child: Art.

In every country I pass through, I visit the museums.

I look into the paintings.

And I see myself.

Color must be what sound is like if you can hear.

And some painters know how to put the colors together in just the right way...

so that I imagine it is like music.

I study this. The composition of color, like the composition of a piece of music.

I paint.

I begin absorbing the styles and rhythms of painters from all around the world.

It's like I'm a kid and trying to learn spoken language for the first time.

I do self portraits.

Because I'm trying to find myself in the colors.

I'm trying to break myself apart into my base atoms and rebuild myself again on the canvas.

This time into something that I have control of. Something beautiful.

Less messy than the real thing.

But, no matter how I break it down and try to rematerialize it...

I can't seem to completely filter all the confusion, anger and guilt out of my system.

I go from angry...

to sad.

I decide to confront the source.

The newspapers called him Daredevil. I knew him as Matt Murdock.

I'm not sure if he's still that person.

But I'm going to find out.

I'm coming for you, Matt.

I need to talk.

I need to work this out.

DAREDEVIL 52

I'm sorry, Maya. Things are different now.

I can't read your lips when you are not facing me.

I'm glad that you are all right. But I think it is best if you stay out of town. Things have gotten complicated.

I said things have gotten complicated.

I know it's complicated. But that's the past. That was Fisk's fault.

Now that he is out of the picture, don't you think that we should give this another shot?

It feels like the only chance I have left.

It feels like the only thing that makes sense.

Maya...

I'm involved with someone.

I didn't catch that.

Yes you did.

Yes I did.

Maya, you left, and a lot of things have happened. My whole world has fallen down around me.

I've had to rebuild it.

Who is it?

No one you know. That's not what I'm talking about.

Is it that redhead Russian girl I saw you with?

Don't do this.

It's that blind girl I saw walking out of your apartment.

Maya...

You go from deaf girl to blind girl? What is your deal?

Do you even realize what a nutcase you are?

Fisk.

Forget about him.

He's no longer an issue.

He really did get the last laugh on this one, didn't he?

He always did.

Stay away from him, Maya. Don't do any--

Maya?

Let's start at the beginning.

I'm not sure if something went wrong somewhere in this process. But early on my mother can tell that I'm different.

After my initial crying, I don't make much noise.

And I don't react to noise.

I remember the beating of my father's heart as he holds me to him.

Mother

I can't completely remember my mother anymore.

Sometimes I try to picture her.

Sometimes I try to draw her.

But she looks different every time.

Mother

I remember her smell. Her lips. And a couple of the words she used to mouth fiercely to my father.

I couldn't hear the words, but I quickly learned to decipher spoken language through the repeated shape of words on lips.

Lips are like windows.

She left very early on.

vision Quest part two

FAMILY portrait

DAD

MOM

me

Goodbye

And there are no photos.

M O T H E R

Her leaving didn't seem to bother my father. Nothing seemed to faze him. Not even when I never spoke and the doctor called me a *"nonverbal."*

F A T H E R

Or when they said I was *"retarded"* and sent me to a special school.

Or when, years later, they decide that I'm not retarded. That is when I start to recognize the new word, *"Deaf."*

D E A F

I'm told that there is an invisible world that exists all around me.

It is called the *"Audible World."*

I find out my world is made of Blank Scrabble tiles.

I PIECE THE WORLD TOGETHER AS

THE PIECES ARE GIVEN TO ME

LEARN TO SPEAK

LEARN TO SIGN

And I try to figure out what pieces I'm still missing now that I know I can't hear all these sounds everyone is talking about.

I sign and speak with my newfound voice. I'm asking questions all the time, thirsty for clues about this elusive dimension of sound. Like why is it that I'm told rain makes noise, but snowflakes are supposedly quiet?

Does lightning make a sound?

Well, we call it thunder and it comes after the lightning.

I've felt that before. It shakes.

Sometimes it makes the dogs howl.

Howl? Dogs make sound? Do animals talk?

Well, most of them make sounds, but they...

Do plants talk too? And bugs? What sound does sunshine make?

My father's face is rough with lines and scars. All of him is this way. The geography worn into his features is a topographical map of his experience.

Each line tells a tale. He is my Rosetta stone to interpret the language of life.

Every night when I go to sleep my father tells me a story. Usually these are Indian stories that he was told when he was a kid.

Mostly they have animals in them and are supposed to teach me something.

He makes shadow puppets to help me understand.

At first I look at his hands, but soon the shadows take on a life of their own, and become the animal spirits in the story.

He says the Indian stories will teach me about the nature of man, God, life, love, and the principles of the universe.

Mostly they teach me how to read lips.

Does God use sign language?

Yes. God uses sign language. I am his sign language to you, and you are his sign language to me.

Once he couldn't remember any more animal stories, and he told me part of his history.

He said much of the story was told to him by his father. I sat transfixed, studying his lips. I picked up most of it.

In your language my given name means Dancing Horse. On paper, my name is William Lincoln. Lincoln, like the man on the money. But most of my friends call me Crazy Horse.

Crazy Horse is the name of a Lakota Chief. But my ancestors are from many different tribes.

That is because they met when they were rounded up together on what is called the Trail of Tears.

In 1832, Jackson, the guy on the twenty dollar money, signed an autograph to remove the native tribes.

It was then that my grandfather's tribe and many other tribes, the Chickasaws, Choctaws, Cherokee, Muskogee... they were called the Creek Indians, but that is only because they lived by the creek and people called them that.

They are really the Muskogee Nation. So them and many more nations... they were all rounded up and made to walk all the way to what the government called *"Indian Territory."* Later they called this territory Oklahoma. That's a Choctaw word that means "red man's land."

There was no choice in the moving. All the tribes were forced to leave their homeland. Those people walked the entire distance, from sunup to sundown, herded along by soldiers on horseback.

Not everyone was strong enough to make the trip. In fact most of our people died on the way. And the rest were not allowed to give them a proper burial.

That is why it is called the Trail of Tears.

The children were taken from their parents and forced to go to boarding schools. They were not allowed to speak their native tongues. They were not allowed to tell their own stories. So my grandfather had to remember all of the stories.

My grandfather lost all of his family from his own tribe. But he married someone from another tribe that he met in the new territory and they had my mother. He told all of his stories to my mother.

But soon my mother lost all of her family. So she married someone from another tribe and they had me. And they told all of their stories to me.

And then I came all the way here to the city and I met someone not in any of those tribes.

And now I have you. And I tell all of my stories to you.

All of that traveling and joining parents and grandparents has made you.

You are the future of all of their stories.

It's good that you don't hear in words or think only in words.

This way you don't hear only lies. You see by actions what the truth is. And you tell your own truth by actions.

I'm nine years old when my father dies.

Goodbye DADDY

me

FAMILY

His ANIMAL SHADOWS IN MY Head.

His Empty outline ON THE FLOOR

An Empty Like me.

Just me left Now.

My father's business partner becomes my legal guardian.

He is a man called Fisk.

He said that my father asked him to take care of me if anything ever happened to him.

He is a really big man.

Daddy

Its Like I Still Feel the TOUCH of my FATHER'S HAND ON MY FACE.

After this, I don't talk anymore. Fisk sends me to an expensive school for children with handicaps and learning disabilities.

One day a man played the piano for us. I was fascinated by the complex dance of his fingers on the keys. It was a language. Like signing or reading lips.

Like the sign language of God.

I walked right up to the piano and put my hand on it. I could feel the vibration that matched the rhythm of his hands. I was used to discerning communication with my eyes. I had never felt anything so direct. It penetrated the barrier of isolation. It comforted me, in a way that only my father's heartbeat did.

I memorized this language just like the others.

When the piano stops, it makes me sad. But the echo of it still runs warm inside me.

I climb onto the bench and duplicate his entire hand-play exactly.

After that, I am put in another expensive school... for prodigies.

After a lifetime of reading movement as language, they say I can recreate any complex physical action that my eyes record. Even after only observing it one time. That is why my speech is not slurred.

I can perceive even the most minute muscle intonations. All physical movement is language. They say I am some kind of savant.

I learn to play the piano. Not by sound, but by feeling. By vibration.

I had spent my entire life learning to glean meaning and expression from the tiniest visible detail, to feel meaning through the tiniest vibration or heartbeat. Now to make my own vibrations feels like poetry.

Freedom.

Fullness.

Satisfaction.

I get a lot of different teachers. They are the best in their fields. And they help me to cultivate my talents. They help me to parlay my skills of observation and mimicry into a mastery of everything that I undertake.

It's like I'm writing my own story of myself. Building my own character, metaphorically and physically.

It's like making the animal shapes with your hands. And then the shadow of your hand becomes the real character in the story.

That's how I am with my teachers. I'm an echo of them. And then the echo becomes the real thing.

I start with other musical instruments. And then Ballet. Then Sports. And Martial Arts.

I'm a natural at boxing. And it is something Fisk encourages me to focus on.

There is a rhythm to it like a musical score.

With the execution of each note, the vibration shoots up my arm and throughout my body like I'm playing the piano on a larger scale.

Within ten years, I go from Special Olympics to Olympic Gold.

I get to a point where I can see an action performed once, even on tape or TV, and I can recreate it perfectly, absorb it, and add it to my vocabulary for future use.

I can recreate any movement or skill, but only with the force that my own frame will allow. So I continue to train in order to get my natural strength, speed and dexterity to its peak condition.

It gave me satisfaction to speak to the world, to touch it in ways I had previously been unable to. Fisk was always there to give me a sense of my accomplishments. I knew he supported me as a debt of honor to my father, but I grew to love him as my last sense of family.

In retrospect, it occurs to me now that he was trying to turn me into something useful to him.

And I thought he loved me too.

I was just a poker chip.

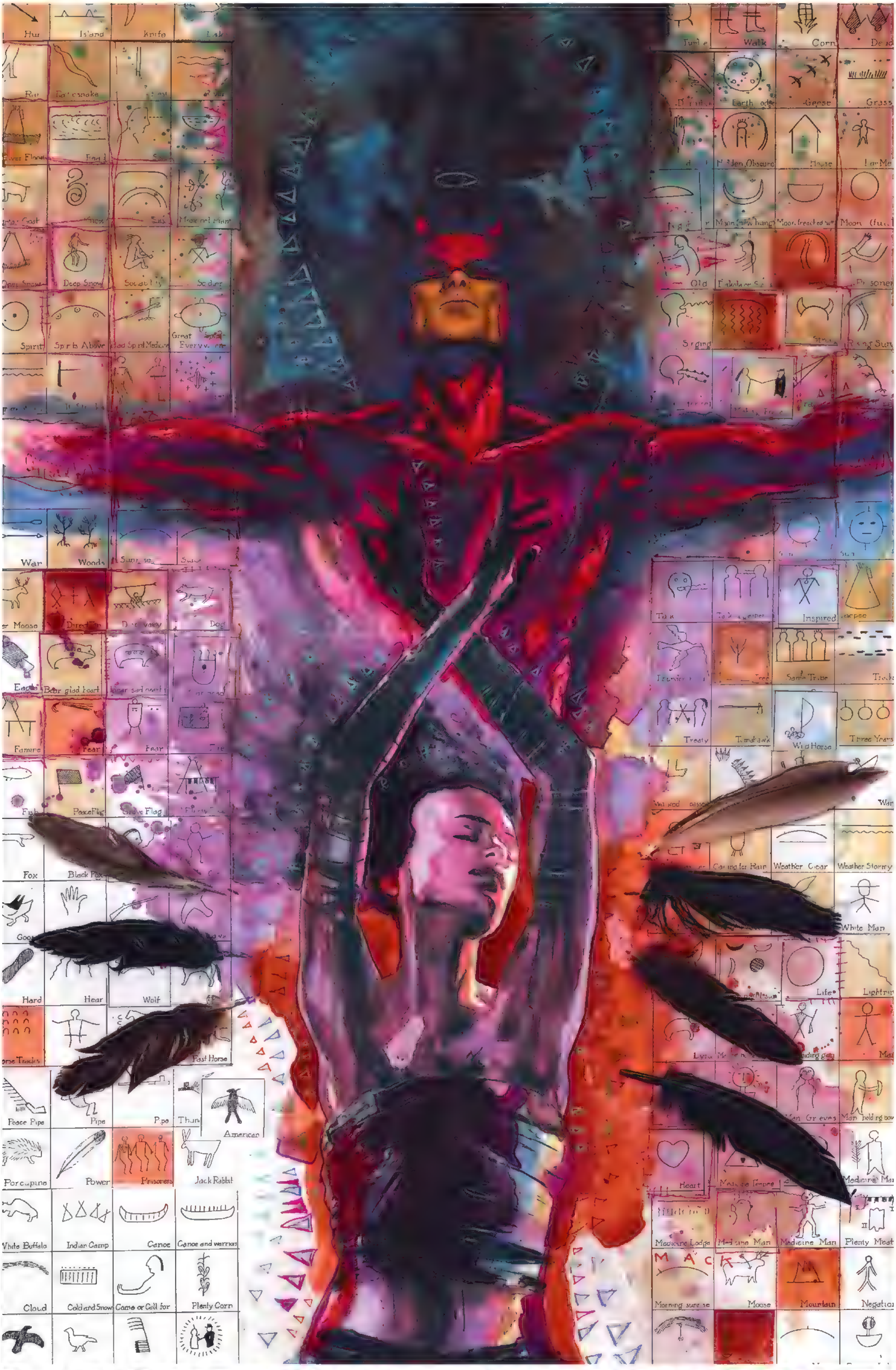
And when the time was right, he cashed me in.

Rykers Island Maximum Security Penitentiary

Fisk, you have a visitor.

You.

Hello,
Fisk.


Hut
Island
Knife
Lake
Rattlesnake
Deep Snow
Deep Snow
Soldier
Spirit
Spirits Above
Great
War
Woods
Bear glad heart
Famine
Fear
Fear
Fish
Peace Flag
Fox
Black Fox
Hard
Hear
Wolf
Fast Horse
Peace Pipe
Pipe
Pipe
American
Porcupine
Power
Prisoners
Jack Rabbit
White Buffalo
Indian Camp
Canoe
Canoe and warriors
Cloud
Cold and Snow
Plenty Corn
Walk
Corn
Geese
Grass
Old
Singing
Inspired
Tree
Santa Tribe
Treaty
Tomahawk
Wild Horse
Three Years
White Man
Life
Medicine Lodge
Medicine Man
Medicine Man
Plenty Meat
Morning sunrise
Moose
Mountain

Did I support you and fund your education as a debt of honor to your father?

Yes.

Did I manipulate you like a pawn on my chessboard of enemies?

Yes.

Do I blame you for taking your anger out on me?

No. No I really don't.

What I did with you, and what I did with your father was business. Just business.

But here's the kicker.

In my own way, I grew to care for you, Maya.

As much as it is in my nature to be able to do so.

I loved you like a daughter.

I'M NINE YEARS OLD

WHEN MY FATHER DIES

I Remember Being in the ambulance.

He puts His Hand on my face.

then it falls lifeless and

He leaves me with only His echo.

I still do.

Goodbye Daddy

I still do.

Daddy

Touch Father's Hand

I leave without another word.

There can be no satisfaction in any further external action. There can be no satisfaction from anything either of us has to say.

And yet there is something emotionally unsettling in his words. Is he still playing chess? Probably. But I think that in his own warped way he is speaking from the heart.

I believe him.

But that doesn't get Matt back for me. It doesn't bring my father back.

It doesn't fix anything.

I still feel angry.

I still feel empty.

Echo
Part three
The Vision Quest

Perhaps the time for blaming is over.

The issues I have now aren't from other people.

THE Nature of the Self-portraits gets me to thinking. Have I used all my own atoms in the right way?

Have all of my pigments an' Brushstrokes been for the Right cause?

My recent actions Have perhaps squandered my gifts on the selfish motivation of my darker emotions.

I need to deconstruct my bitterness and rebuild it into something else.

There are certain heroes in this world that focus every act on the helping of others. On ideas bigger than themselves. These people take whatever setbacks they are dealt and turn them into their assets.

These modern day heroes and icons remind me of the stories and leaders of the Indian legends I was told when I was younger.

The tribe comes before the individual. There is a harmony. A cycle of actions. Each gesture gives energy to the next.

I'm thinking of the old reservation. I'm thinking of the Chief and when he told me that he discovered his path in life on his vision quest.

I DRAW the SE. FIRST ON CANVAS.

THEN ONTO THE walls and FLOOR.

And I decide to go back for a visit.

It's a short trip on the map of my memories.

The car comes to a halt in a cloud of dust, leaves and possibility. I climb out and step back in time.

What sound does that make?

I take a long hard deep breath and I inhale the past.

It tastes like earth and sunshine and pine needles and nostalgia.

I drink in the sights and scents and the sun on my skin.

I'm in the attic of my childhood.

I'm in the basement of my memories.

I'm in the middle of nowhere.

Back on the Rez. That's what my dad called it. An interzone of nations. People from various tribes use it as a pit stop when passing through. They come to get away from what we call the real world, and they stay a day or a week, or a year or a lifetime.

And it feels good to be home.

I make my way to the place where I would stay with my father when we visited. The Chief's place. The old medicine man.

I sort of expect him to be dead. But he's sitting right there on the porch in his old chair. The dogs are different. But everything else is the same.

He and the dogs look my way and the sunlight catches half of his face.

He looks the same too.

Do you remember me? I'm Lincoln's daughter. They called him Crazy Horse.

You taught me Indian Sign Language.

Hello

Friend

I or Me

Deaf

I'm the deaf girl.

Girl

Dog

Of course I remember you. You always asked me questions like, "What is the noise of a dog's tail wagging?"

That sounds like me.

I heard you did a play about a story your father told you. You called yourself Echo.

The play was called Echo. The newspapers just called me that as well.

I understand how that goes. People called us Indians.

Most people know file Lakota Nation as the Sioux. Sioux is from an Anishinabe word for Snake. The Anishinabe called us that.

Yeah. Sometimes you get a weird name and it sticks.

Whatever the paper called you, you have become a storyteller just as I said you'd be.

You did say that, didn't you?

You never know how much people get from your stories. How it affects them in the long run. Gives them food for thought, to help them in the future or just inspire them. Motivate them to find their purpose.

Stories are magic.

Once you breathe life into a story it takes on a life of its own. It gets passed on. Renamed. Retold. It becomes its own creature.

Sometimes the story will even come back to you. Tell you things in its own words.

The story may have grown and evolved in little ways so that more people can understand it than those who you originally told it to.

I ask him if he heard about what happened to my father.

Yes. We held a sweat lodge in his honor. Told many stories about him.

Lots of magic.

I remember that people used to bring you gifts or tobacco when they asked for your advice or help.

He puts it in his pocket.

Follow me.

THANK YOU.

Medicine Teepee

I've acquired skills. I've studied many things. But I've destroyed a relationship that I care about. I need to focus on my purpose. On my place in this world.

FA THE R

←IN THE TIPI, HE ASKS ME WHAT KIND OF HELP I AM LOOKING FOR.

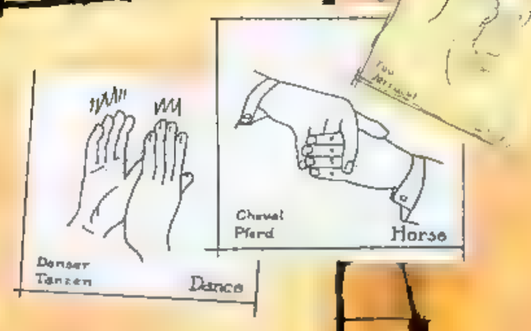
I'm hoping you can tell me more things about my father.

And I remember that you said you went on a thing called a vision quest to find your purpose in life.

You're searching for both the past and the future. Learn to find the now. Then the past and the future will take care of themselves.

There are drawings in the inside of the Tipi.

First I will tell you about your Father.



Then I will prepare you for your Vision Quest.

Can I ask you something else?

Drawings are the Questions.

Float Up To Heaven.

What's a vision quest?

To prepare me for my experience he has me do what he calls a purification ceremony. He tells me I need to fast. Then stones that have been heated in a fire are brought in. The door is closed, and hot steam is created by pouring water on the stones.

Sunset

Medicine Teepee

The heat will make you perspire and get rid of the many toxins you carry in you. The steam that rises from the stones is referred to as the "*Breath of Spirit.*"

"Breath of Spirit" reminds me of Word Balloons in comic books.

In the Lakota language, the name for sweat lodge is Inipi. Ini means "spirit" and Pi means "place." So its name is "spirit place". The sacred spot where we communicate with a higher power.

"Tipi" is To Live! So Tipi Means "Living place."

How do we communicate with a higher power? The secret is humility. The opening of the doorway is so small that we must crawl on our hands and knees to enter it.

Spirit

Medicine Man

It is sacred in its construction. Prayers are made when we dig the dirt for the stones.

The poles of the tipi don't come from one place. One comes from here, another from over there. Just like the people who enter. Their backgrounds may be different, but when they come together in the sacred space, they are as one.

When you were a little girl, your father took you to a nearby Hilltop and introduced you to the elements.

First to the Four Directions

Prayer

He spoke to the Four Directions and asked them to bring balance to your life. And help you to find your way.

Then he touched your tiny feet to this Mother Earth. "Dear Mother Earth," he says, "One day this child will walk, play and run on you. I will teach her to have respect for you as she grows. Please be there supporting her."

Then he introduced you to the sun, and the wind, and the water, and the fire, and the moon and the stars. And he asked them to make your way clear.

Though your father was here for a short time of your life, he was good to you and taught you many things.

You were always loved by him. Even when the white doctors and teachers said you were slow and stupid.

Even when they said you were deaf.

You must look at his time with you as a blessing. As a gift. You must not look at his death and think something was taken away from you.

If you look at an emptiness, your world will become empty. If you look at the blessing, your life will be blessed.

Fou Verruckt Crazy

Horse

Spirits Above

Great Spirit Everywhere

Death

Life

Originally the vision quest was undertaken for the safety of the tribe.

He tells me the Vision Quest is the setting aside of a time and place in Nature to communicate with the higher wisdom.

In those days communion with the spirit world was crucial to success in life, and the vision quest was among the most important rituals.

After days of solitude in nature, a vision or spirit might appear to the quester. This generally manifested in the form of a man, woman, animal, or bird. Sometimes these apparitions of guardian spirits transformed from animal to human shape, or assumed other natural forms.

If a vision and communion with the Higher Wisdom were achieved, the spirit would confer the kind of supernatural power best suited to the quester's needs and mission in life.

This may be medicine for hunting, for healing, for war, or for the role of a shaman or medicine man.

I am told of an Iroquois legend of a famous vision quest.

A thousand years ago, a boy went forth to become a man. He entered the woods alone, without provisions of any kind. He lit a small fire, and then lay down to fast and dream for three days and nights, hoping to entertain a spiritual visitor. A manitou. A guide who would teach him his future and life work.

A great manitou appeared to him on the first night. Into the glow of the boy's small fire stepped a magnificent and strong young man, clothed all in green and yellow.

The young man signaled to the boy to come wrestle him. The boy wrestled with the manitou. Like Jacob with the Angel.

On the third night the manitou spoke. He told the boy to bury him. The boy was then to return throughout the summer to pour water on the spot and tend it. In the fall, the Great Spirit's gift to the people would appear.

Grieving but obedient, the boy did as he was told, and tended the grave. A green shoot sprang from the ground and grew tall as the manitou used to stand. It bore green wrapped ears of maize, the gift of the Great Spirit to the people.

When that boy returned to his tribe, he had brought the secret of growing corn with him. Growing the corn became his role in life, and his gift to his community.

There are more stories. And more steam. And the drawings on the inside of the tipi begin to move on their own.

The Chief burns incense around me and waves it about with a feather.

And with that I am sent up the mountain and into the woods to sit for four days.

He rubs the incense ash in his hands and then touches my face.

Night turns to dawn, and day turns to night, the wind blows, and it rains and stops raining.

I listened to stories of people being visited by wolf spirits, and coyote spirits, eagle spirits, and hearing words from their dead ancestors in the form of animal or nature manitous that approached them during their fast.

I began to understand that the vision quest is a way of leaving your old kind of boxed in thinking behind. It is a way of shedding fear and opening yourself up so that you can see the solutions and lessons from nature that are right under your nose. Even though they may not come in the language that you are used to.

I think of my father. Remembering all the animal stories he told me. The lessons that were in the stories. He didn't tell me what the lessons were. He let me figure them out. He asked me if I learned anything from the story.

And when I told him my interpretations, he smiled. He didn't say if I was right or wrong. He let me see my own lessons in the story, even if they weren't the ones other people might see.

I fall into something like a dream or a memory.

When I open my eyes there is a rabbit sniffing at my feet.

It is a dog. A wild dog sniffing my face.

The first thing I think of is a children's book where the girl follows the rabbit into the woods and then she begins to change in size and shape.

Its hot breath mixes with my own. And its wet nose brushes against mine.

I just look at it. Appreciating it. Until it has sniffed me enough and scampers off.

I'm not sure what this means, but I realize that I'm not afraid. "You must be the dog spirit?" I say. "Are you going to tell me something? Do you have a message from my father?"

The dog looks at me, cocks his leg to a nearby tree, urinates, and walks away. I search the scenery for some kind of code or detail to insight. After a time, my eyes go closed again.

When I open my eyes I see two dogs fighting right in front of me.

It is the big dog from before, and another wild dog. It is a vicious fight. Probably over territory.

Tearing at each other. Going for the throat. Crashing through trees and bushes.

They don't stop. They don't even seem to get tired.

THIS HAPPENS FOR A LONG TIME. UNTIL IT GOES COMPLETELY DARK.

Moon

When the moon moves over my direction, I get a bit more light. No sign of the dogs. But I notice a pair of wide yellow eyes up in the tree that the dog peed on.

I'm told that owls ask questions. *"Who?"*, over and over.

I wonder if this owl is asking me that.

I remember that the Chief said that his quests involve asking himself three questions. *"Who am I?" "What have I become with the who that I am?"* and *"Why am I here?"*

I wonder if the owl is here to remind me of that. I decide that he is. And I thank him.

The owl flies away.

There is a chill in my body that I recognize as thunder.

It rains hard. I haven't seen any animals for a while, so I expected it. The wind blows a different way, and the trees turn their leaves upside down to catch the water.

It's darker than ever. I'm thinking that I won't see any more animals until morning. I decide that maybe I am to learn something from the rain. But that seems so abstract.

Then the lightning flashes again and I see something moving in the distance.

I'm so interested in it that I forgot the thunder would come a second later and its chill catches me off guard. A hot instinctive bit of red fear or surprise jolts through my system.

Lightning

Is it a bear?

Fear

There is definitely Something there. Something Big.

Getting closer.

Moving right at me.

The sky lights up again, and I see the silhouette in the trees. I think I even saw its face.

The thunder surprises me again

Fear

and makes my body shake.

I tell myself that I will be ready for it next time.

Fear

I strain into the darkness, through the screen of rain and moving trees and blowing leaves.

It's close now. It's right there.

THE

SKY LIGHTS UP

Lightning

It's Right IN FRONT of ME.

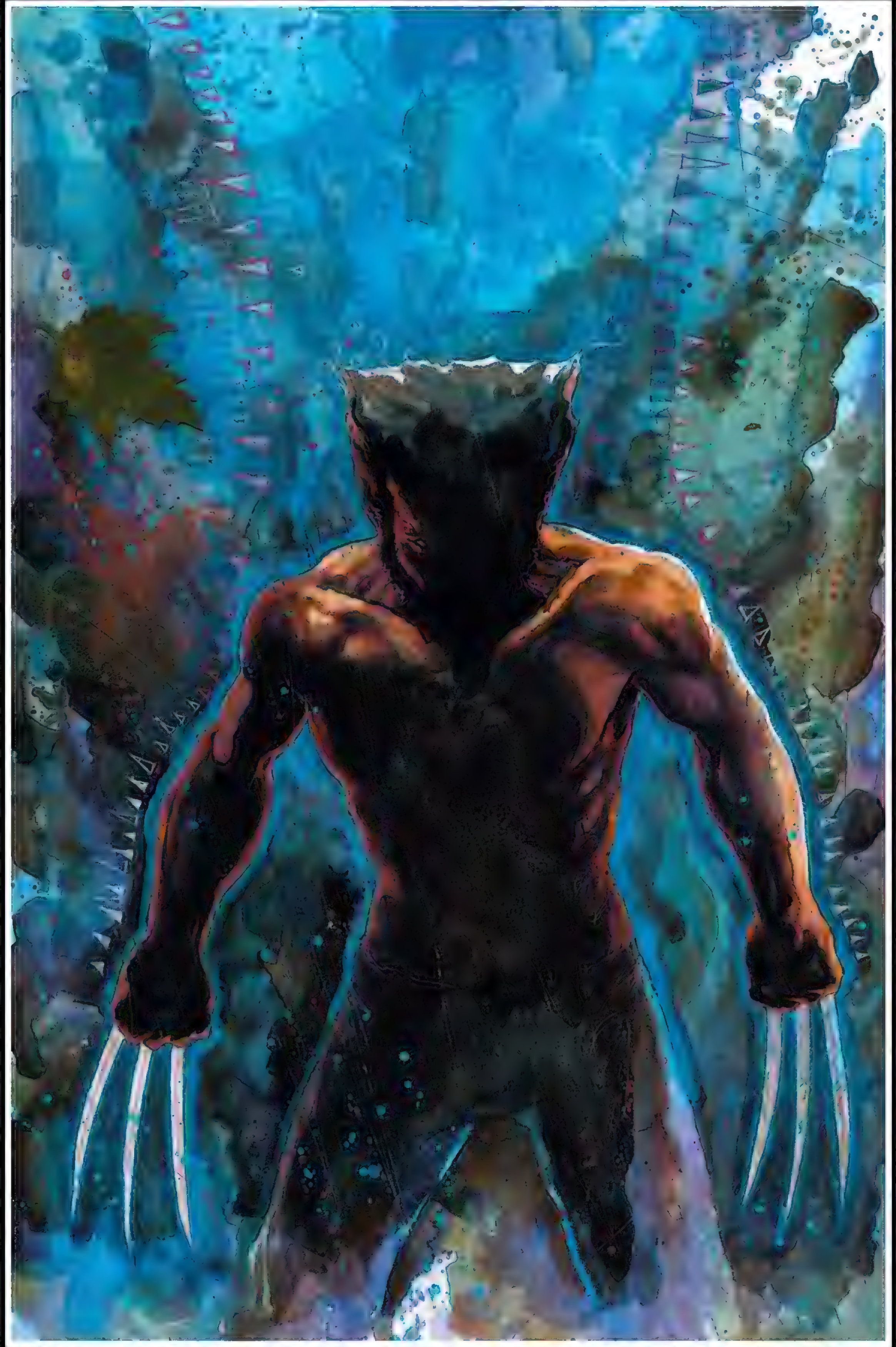
A SHADOW CARVED OUT OF THE Woods BY THE outline OF THE LightNing

ANIMAL SPIRIT

It's Look right at

and I see it

See



DAREDEVIL **54**

At first I couldn't move if I wanted to.

There is a figure standing right in front of me. I couldn't see its face, but in the split-second freeze frame of the lightning, it didn't look like something that I was comfortable with.

The vibration of the thunder catches me off guard again and sends a jolt through my spine.

The rain is like a jazz rhythm on my head. I summon all my strength and stand up to face the figure before me.

If it's speaking to me, it's too dark for me to ever know.

When I stand, I realize that the figure is shorter than me. I see his breath and nothing else.

The rain goes harder on my head.

And the lightning shows me its face.

Two

dogs

fighting

Echo

Four

Then everything goes dark.

And the thunder hits my body like a drumbeat.

And my instinct kicks in.

I don't hear thunder. I feel it like an impact.

So at first I think that he hit me. And as I'm striking back, I realize it was the thunder.

THIS IS all WRONG.

I Have a Feeling like I Failed a test.

Like I put

something

in motion

that I

shouldn't

have.

LiGHt N i NG

Like I'm going down a hill with no brakes.

THUNDER

And a blindfold.

What does darkness sound like?

The lightning goes again and again

and frames us in

flashbulb snapshots.

And after each stop-motion

strobe light...

LIGHTNING

THUNDER

The drum beat is there

to hit me in the darkness.

The thunder punches me in the brain and I don't see what it is that he does to me.

But it makes me angry.

From the lightning flash freeze-frames, I've picked up enough of his moves to be dangerous to both of us.

The vision quest legends of animals transforming into human shape run wild through my mind.

I haven't had food or water for three days. I'm probably hallucinating.

I remember the two dogs fighting.

The rest is like a dream.

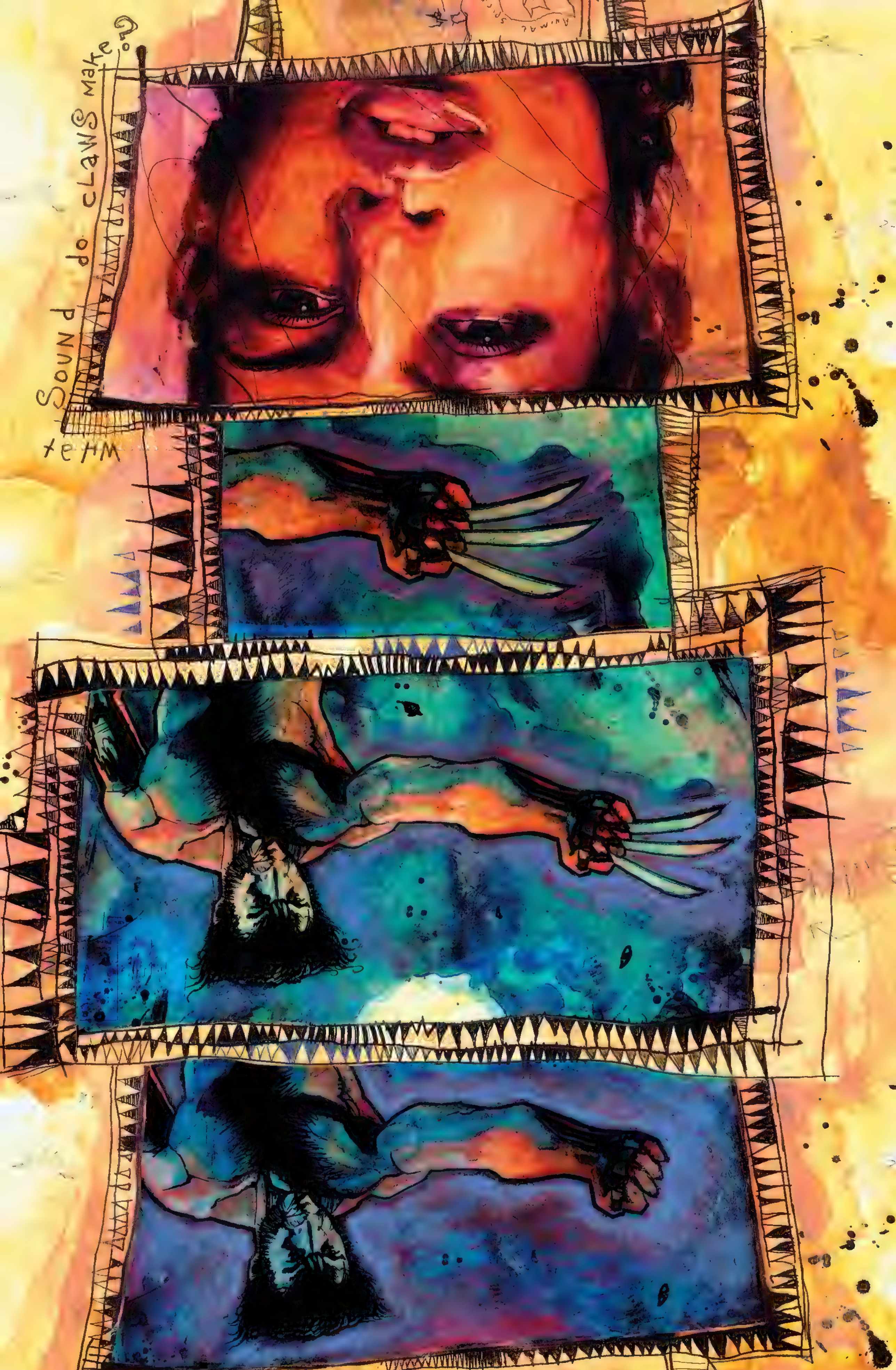
He's like a Picasso Bull-- in all directions at once.

I play the bullfighter.

I go for the nerve centers. Incapacitate him.

I use my moves from Daredevil, Bullseye, and every combat technique in my arsenal to stay ahead of him.

It just makes him angry.


Wolverine do claws make?
Sound
Wham

Are you one of the animal spirits?

Loup
Wolf

Wolf

Sure.

I didn't mean to fight with you.

I'm deaf. The lightning...

I mean the thunder...

Follow me.

You want something to drink?

I can't. I'm fasting.

Animal Spirit He sure does drink a lot.

Oh. You're on a vision quest.

Yes.

What day of your fast is this?

Fourth. I think. The final night.

The Indians have a thing for doing stuff in fours. Four directions. Four seasons. Four is a cycle for them.

Are you an animal, or are you a man?

Always with the questions.

HUH

Danger
Tanger

Loup
Wolf

Wolf

That's a good question, isn't it?

I had to ask myself that question at a couple points in my life.

Four days, huh?

What?

Four days. No food and water.

It does something to you, doesn't it? Opens your mind a bit.

Keeps it... limber.

I come here to get away from everything. But the truth is that long ago I used to run these woods like a wild animal.

I come here once a year to remind myself of that time in my life. It reminds me of how far I've come since then. But it also reminds me that the animal is still inside.

The truth is I'm trying real hard to be a man. To be a human being.

To control the other part that is in us all, the mad part that would rule us all if you let it.

The part that feels wronged and hurt and lashes out wildly.

This reminds me of a Bible story I read when I was little.

Jacob wrestles with the angel and then the angel gives him a blessing.

The Chief would say that there is a blessing in this story.

I'm no angel.

But I figured the Chief sent you up here.

You know the Chief?

Chief Hauptling

Chief

Limber.

keeps it...

your mind open.

I MET HIM ALONG TIME AGO

I Pick up His words the best I can in the Firelight.

I met him up here in the woods back when I was an animal.

He talked to me until I settled down. He stood there, unflinching. Unafraid. And he didn't try to take a swing at me.

Only when I approached him then, wild and snarling, wounded and full of rage, he stood there. He talked to me in a slow and even voice.

I'm sorry. I thought I had conquered my fear. I even met other animal spirits that approached me and I had no fear.

Speaks

Fear

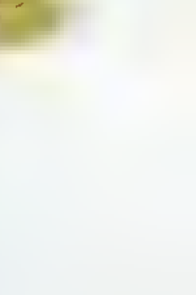
But with you, I think the thunder and lightning sent my system into a panic.

The Chief once put me on my own vision quest. The Chief told me that when you are afraid, it is not something external that is causing the fear or rage, but something internal.

It's true. I do have an inner conflict. I embarked on the vision quest to help resolve it.

What did you see on your quest? I mean, before me?

I saw a rabbit. An owl. A dog or wolf urinating.



And two dogs fighting.

Two dogs fighting?

Yeah. It reminded me of something. But I couldn't put my finger on it.

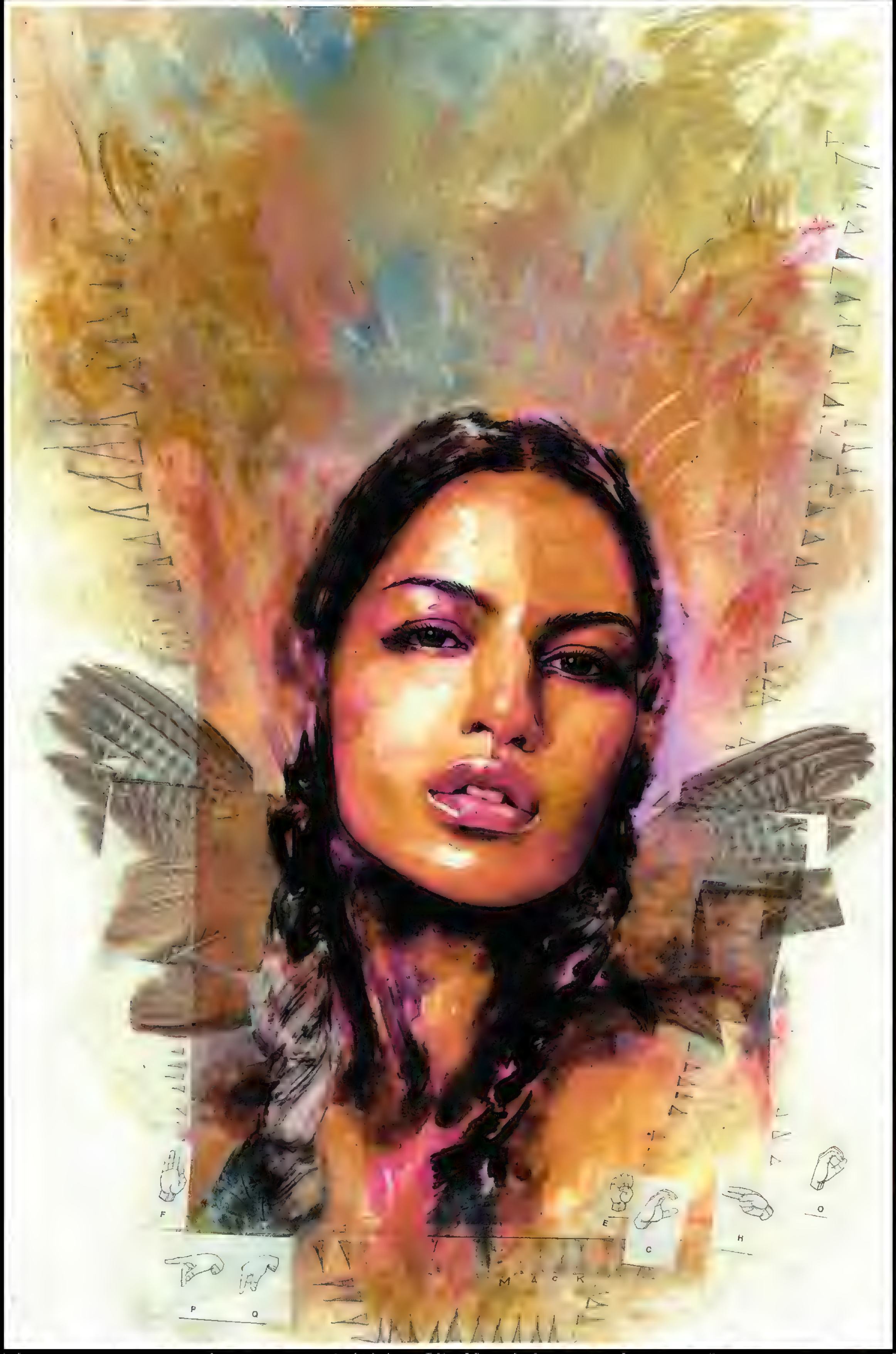
The Chief told me a story called "Two dogs fighting."

Really?

Yeah. The story actually helped me a lot.

I mean... in my trying to be more of a man and less of a wild animal.

Tell it to me.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I tell my father that I will be a story teller too.

The way the Chief told me, the story goes like this.

This guy, I think it was another Indian guy... he was a good guy, but I think he had some problems in the past. Maybe he got in trouble with the law a bit here and there.

Maybe he had a rough childhood.

Or maybe, he fell in with the wrong crowd...

Or maybe just in general felt like he wasn't living up to his potential for whatever reason.

And in describing his inner struggles, he says to the Chief, "*There are two dogs inside me. One of the dogs is mean and evil. The other dog is good.*"

"*The mean dog fights the good dog all the time.*"

And when I heard that, I really understood this guy.

I knew that the one dog was like your dreams and good intentions. He is full of purpose. And order.

He maybe represents your respect for others and your respect for yourself.

Respect for what you can be if you put your heart into it.

And the other dog... he has no respect for anything.

He's like a rabid beast. Crazy and self-indulgent. He blames everyone else for his sickness. He lashes out at every opportunity. He loves nothing but wallowing in the hot darkness of his anger.

So someone asks this guy, this Indian guy, a question.

Someone asks him which dog usually wins.

And the guy sort of looks down and thinks about it for a while.

He doesn't say anything for a long time.

THE STORYTELLER

And then after a moment's reflection, he answers.

He says this.

He says, "The dog that wins is the one that I feed the most."

Something clicked inside of me.

In my gut, I understood this story immediately. But it took me a while before I could really put my comprehension of it into words.

When I was young I was the cunt. A weakling. A misfit.

I've had a lot of things happen in my life that could be viewed as setbacks.

Perhaps you could say I was abused.

Manipulated.

I've had other people do things to me to hurt me.

To hurt those I've cared about.

And the more I've focused on that part, and

blamed others for the situations that I

was in, or what was done to me,

or focused on revenge:

The More I found that I was a Prisoner of those things.

That story of blame and

cycle of fear and anger was the story

that I was enacting.

But when I learned to shed the dents to my ego, and to focus on a sense of purpose and the good that I have experienced, I found that became my reality.

That sense of purpose and positive intentions became the story that I was enacting.

fault.

I'm only telling you this because you're on a vision quest...

And I've had too much to drink.

But the man that told the story to the Chief...

The Chief said that man died not long after.

And I thought, here is a guy that figured it out.

Figured out a major law of nature.

The part of you that thrives is the part that you feed the most.

Some people never understand that.

They live their whole lives putting the blame on something.

This guy realized it. But he didn't follow through.

And he died before he could apply it.

And sometimes the mean dog still wins.

I used to be a real jerk. A real jerk. I'm still a jerk.

But that story lit a fire under my butt. And at least made me try my hardest to cultivate the potential that some people were able to see in me.

What?

I've heard that story before.

When I was a kid.

My father told that story to the Chief a couple weeks before he died.

DAD

HA HA HA

fault.

That was your father?

That was his story?

But I didn't understand it then.

I only understand it now.

Since I was a child, I've been making a conscious effort to read between the lines of everything I see.

Overcompensating in a way for my lack of hearing, I've traveled the world, learning things. Absorbing and adding them to my repertoire.

I've noticed that every art or discipline seems to have its own story or mythology. And within that story or mythology are certain luminaries or heroes that became a catalyst for progressive change.

All I have for sure are my own crude child hood memori[es] either by their spoken philosophy [or] place.

An amber recall faded and brittle with time.

or their action.

Jung would call these characters Archetypes.

We see examples of this in our recorded history.

From the lessons and medicine of the nature spirits and manitous of the Native American cultures that are passed on by their artists and storytellers...

To the icons in the written, musical, or pictorial stories that are told by our contemporary literary shaman...

To the modern day heroes that walk among us and enact change by action and example.

I've felt drawn to that world.

And I've searched for my place in it.

I've even come face to face

with some of

these characters.

Others I've stalked. Observing from a distance.

Sifting through their moralities

Attempting to decipher and absorb their physical techniques into my own vocabulary of movement in the same way that I learned sign language.

They don archetypal masks, colors, or totems in much the same way as my ancestors did in their own vision quests... or meditations...

Or war parties.

It is another way to physically actualize the creed by which they live.

I've been intrigued by these archetypes and the stories that they enact.

But there was always a certain anger in my heart that I couldn't let go of.

And it got me into trouble.

And I think, perhaps, that I let it sabotage some promising relationships.

But it turns out that it is my own father's story...

The words of a man long dead...

That make things clear for me.

HA HA HA

And I want you to know that I'm grateful for that.

I thank you for telling my father's words to me in a way that I understand.

I'm glad his story told in his own kind of beautiful clumsy language helped you.

It shows me the impact, the ripple effect, that our stories have in this world.

Instead of only searching for meaning in historical mythology, or the mythology of modern heroes...

I realize that we are writing our own mythology every day of our lives.

And I suppose that each of us has within us, within our stories, within our actions, the power of the manitou.

The power to plant something positive in the hearts of those that need it.

In the flicker of the firelight

He sang

But I remember that I've [illegible] for four days [illegible] my fast.

And each of us has the power to cultivate that seed, when it is planted in our own hearts.

And it is my own mind, my own perceptions, that are changing.

And after the fourth day of my fast, speaking to the animal spirit all night, I closed my eyes for a time.

Something not quite like sleep happened.

I saw a bird flying in a dream.

And for the first time, I heard the noise that clouds make.

And when I opened my eyes...

The bird was in the sky. But it was sunrise.

And the animal spirit was gone.

The stones still hot from his fire.

And his words, and my father's, still danced alive in my head.

And I wondered if it was all a dream.

You had a vision.

Your father spoke to you on this vision quest. He spoke to you through a nature spirit.

That was his way of communicating to you beyond the veil of the temporary material world.

His way of guiding you.

The vision quest lifts the veil separating the worlds. Makes it easier for you to hear. It makes you sensitive to the sign language of God.

You have been shown your path in life.

The vision showed you the importance of your father's stories.

You have been handed down something very important.

The mantle of the storyteller.

You are a shaman to a tribe without boundaries.

I hear you've been performing at the theater again.

Performing your stories in sign language, dance, and music. To the deaf children. To anyone who will watch or listen. But in your own shadow puppet way.

I attended the one called "*Parts of a Hole*".

I recognized myself in it.

I intend to see "*The Echo Story*" with a friend.

I understand it includes stories your father passed down to you, and is about your childhood, growing up deaf. Learning to use your unique perspective as your asset instead of your handicap.

This time he remembers to face me and repeat it.

I'm glad you've found your place, Maya.

But I don't bother to read his lips.

And when I go to kiss him...

He doesn't stop me.

Because he knows it means goodbye.

MY name is
My name is Maya Lopez.
This is my story.
This story is called Echo.
It doesn't happen in words.
It happens in movements, and memories.
Shapes and feelings.

When it does happen in words,

it doesn't happen in the sound of words.

but in the color of them.

The mood and texture, and mystery of their crossword puzzle meanings.

My story happens in music.

Sometimes slow and awkward.

Like little fingers on worn out keys searching for meaning.

My story

doesn't happen

in the sound of the

notes

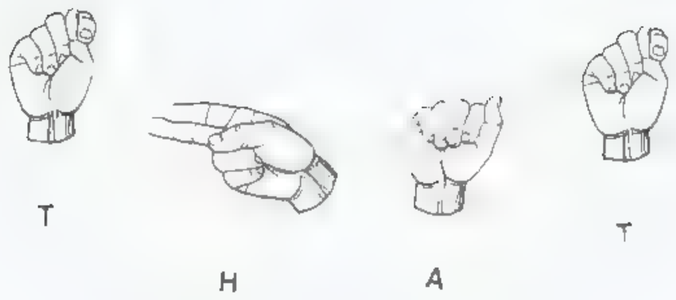
but in the silence between

them.

That is where

the magic

happens.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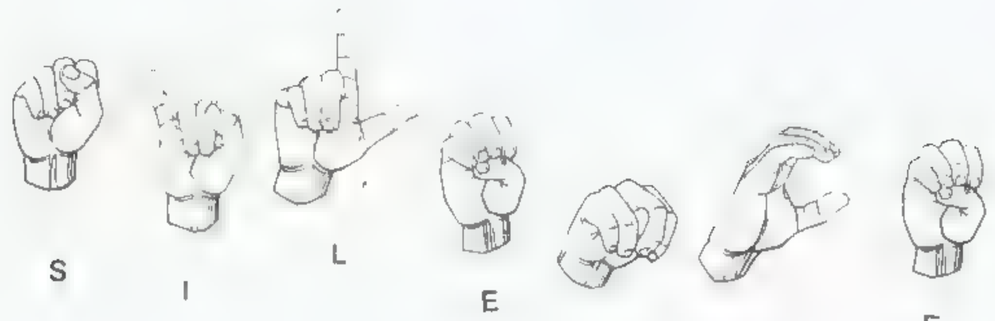
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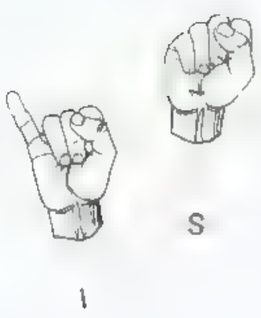
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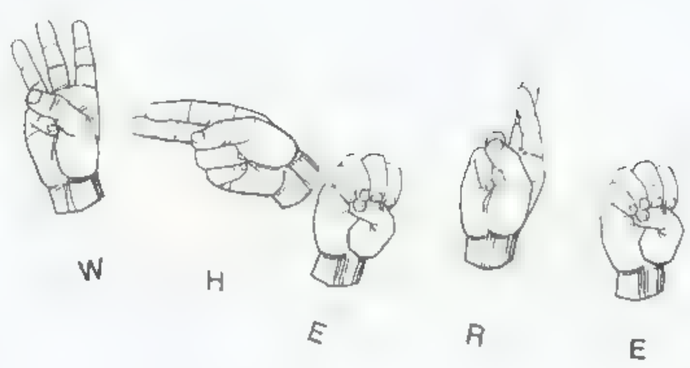
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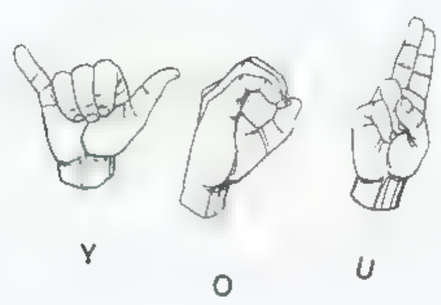
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The end.

ROB HAYNES & DAVID SELF

Daredevil: Ninja #1 Dynamic Forces variant

PHIL WINSLADE

Daredevil/Spider-Man #1 Dynamic Forces sketch variant

PHIL WINSLADE & ALEX ROSS

Daredevil/Spider-Man #1 Dynamic Forces variant

ROB HAYNES & DAVID SELF

Daredevil: Ninja TPB pinup

ROB HAYNES & DAVID SELF

Daredevil: Ninja unused cover & cover sketches

ROB HAYNES & DAVID SELF

Daredevil: Ninja character sketches

ROB HAYNES & DAVID SELF

Daredevil: Ninja #1 cover mock-up

ROB HAYNES & DAVID SELF

Daredevil: Ninja #2 cover mock-up

ROB HAYNES & DAVID SELF

Daredevil: Ninja #2 cover mock-up

DAREDEVIL: NINJA TPB
AFTERWORD BY
ROB HAYNES

If you enjoyed reading the *Daredevil: Ninja* miniseries, give yourself a pat on the back. You've earned it. The visual narration was designed to invite your participation. Nothing was drawn to look realistic. Everything was drawn to remind you of reality. You were given just enough shape and color to play with. Your imagination and intellect supplied the rest and seasoned the art to taste. If you like what you saw, thank you for all your help. You probably deserve to be included in the credits, but you'd probably want a check too. Sorry. Not enough money in the world to cover it.

I've gotten questions regarding the film-style credits. "If you were the director, what did you direct? In what way was David Self the cinematographer?" Well, I believe those titles were used for fun. And, I did draw most of the story in horizontal, rectangular panels. Sort of like miniature movie screens, I guess. But, basically I was told that because I didn't follow the script in the traditional sense, I was being credited as the director. Much of the visual content was created irregularly, so I'll clarify the process.

My top priority was readability. Some comic book fans have become very sophisticated readers. No matter how ridiculous or complex the page layout, they never get lost. So, no matter what I do, they're covered. A lot of people don't know how to read comics, however. But they do know how to read left-to-right, top-to-bottom. Horizontal panels read left-to-right like lines of text, and the repetition creates a focus on what's inside each panel, instead of the entire page.

For solid storytelling, almost every panel should include either: 1) the main characters, 2) one or more of their goals or 3) one or more of their obstacles. The key ingredient for storytelling is conflict, so it's interesting when a page or even one panel has all three. Ideally, every panel can be described with verbs rather than adjectives. For visual clarity, the key ingredients are the acting (poses, gestures, facial expressions) and the positioning of recognizable shapes and sizes for drama and depth (who's bigger than whom and what's smaller than what).

The moment my sketches became readable, I popped open the pen-top and inked them. I used the same sized pen on everything to keep it simple. Basically, I made a coloring book with a story. David Self and I had rooms on the east wing of the Tim Townsend estate when this book was produced. Our office was in the room right beside my bedroom. I drew the pages in my bedroom and took them into the office where I could watch David color them. David is smarter than me, so I tried to keep my mouth shut. It's hard for me to smile real big with my mouth shut.

The cinematographer is responsible for the camera work, which David wasn't. But, the cinematographer is also responsible for the lighting, which he was. At least 95 percent of the books' interior was lit and shaded by David. I rarely drew any light sources unless they were necessary to the story, so his work was mostly uphill. Plus, he needed to understand the way I draw anatomy in order to place shadows on the figures. And most important, he had to make color choices that kept the story flowing.

On this project, most of the action was fast-paced. And unfortunately, the cooler the art, the slower the read. Because you can't have a Daredevil or a ninja story without some cool shots, I tried to include a few nice drawings in spots where it wouldn't wreck the flow. The real trick was to save the full-page illustrations for the right moments in the story. Certain character introductions, maybe a scene change or a climax, and sometimes the pauses before the action starts are good places for full-page interruption. However, I think an epic, a romance or a story with loads of exposition in the text would be well served with lots of big, beautiful art.

The actual story in a lot of comic book scripts lies in the dialogue and captions. Not in the panel counts or art descriptions. Occasionally, there is conflict described in the stage directions, but usually it's an account of small- or large-scale violence. After I read each script, I reprinted them with the dialogue and captions only, and worked from that. This made it easier to concentrate on the writer's story and ignore most of the cool drawing suggestions. Once David and I finished our part, the writer took another stab at the dialogue and captions to really make it sing.

Major thanks to Frank Miller for making some of these characters so interesting. Everything is an influence, but Frank is a good influence. Mike Zeck once said he needed reference for drawing a jail in his Punisher miniseries. He remembered all these great jail scenes in Frank's Daredevil run. But, when he looked them up, most of the shots were just shadows of bars on the walls and floors. I think that's so cool.

One last thing: I love super heroes. When I was a kid, I wanted to be a super hero so bad. Now that I'm older and more stupid, I believe that some things are impossible. So, the next best thing for me is drawing super hero stories. I can't wait to do more. Meanwhile, thanks for taking a look at some of what I've done so far.

Rob Haynes
April 2001

DAVE ROSS & JAMES HODGKINS

Daredevil #23, page 16 art

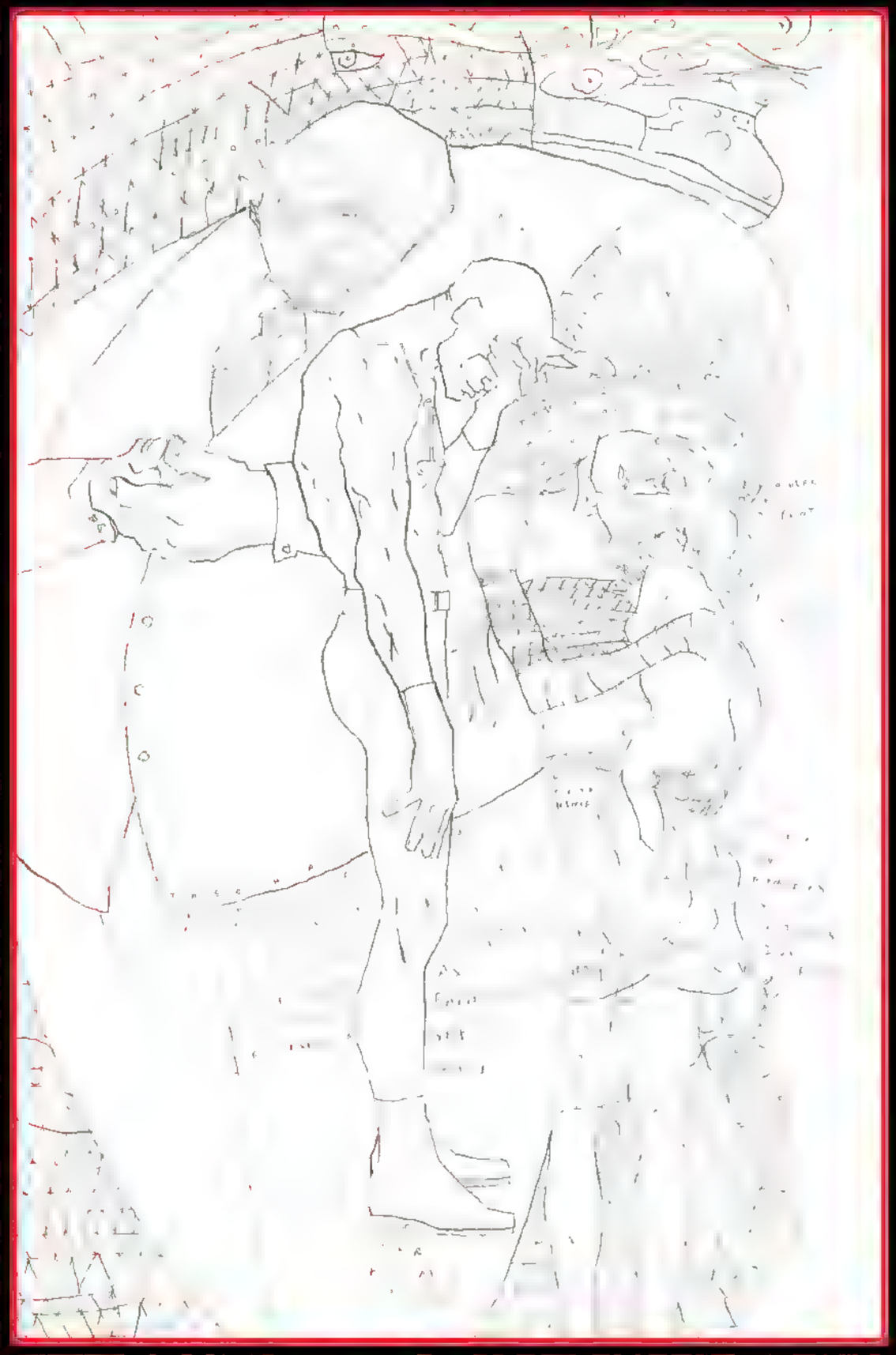
DAVE ROSS & JAMES HODGKINS

Daredevil #24, page 3 art

VATCHE MAVLIAN

Spider-Man/Daredevil #1, page 2 art

Courtesy of HeritageAuctions.com



DAVID MACK

Daredevil: Echo bouus material

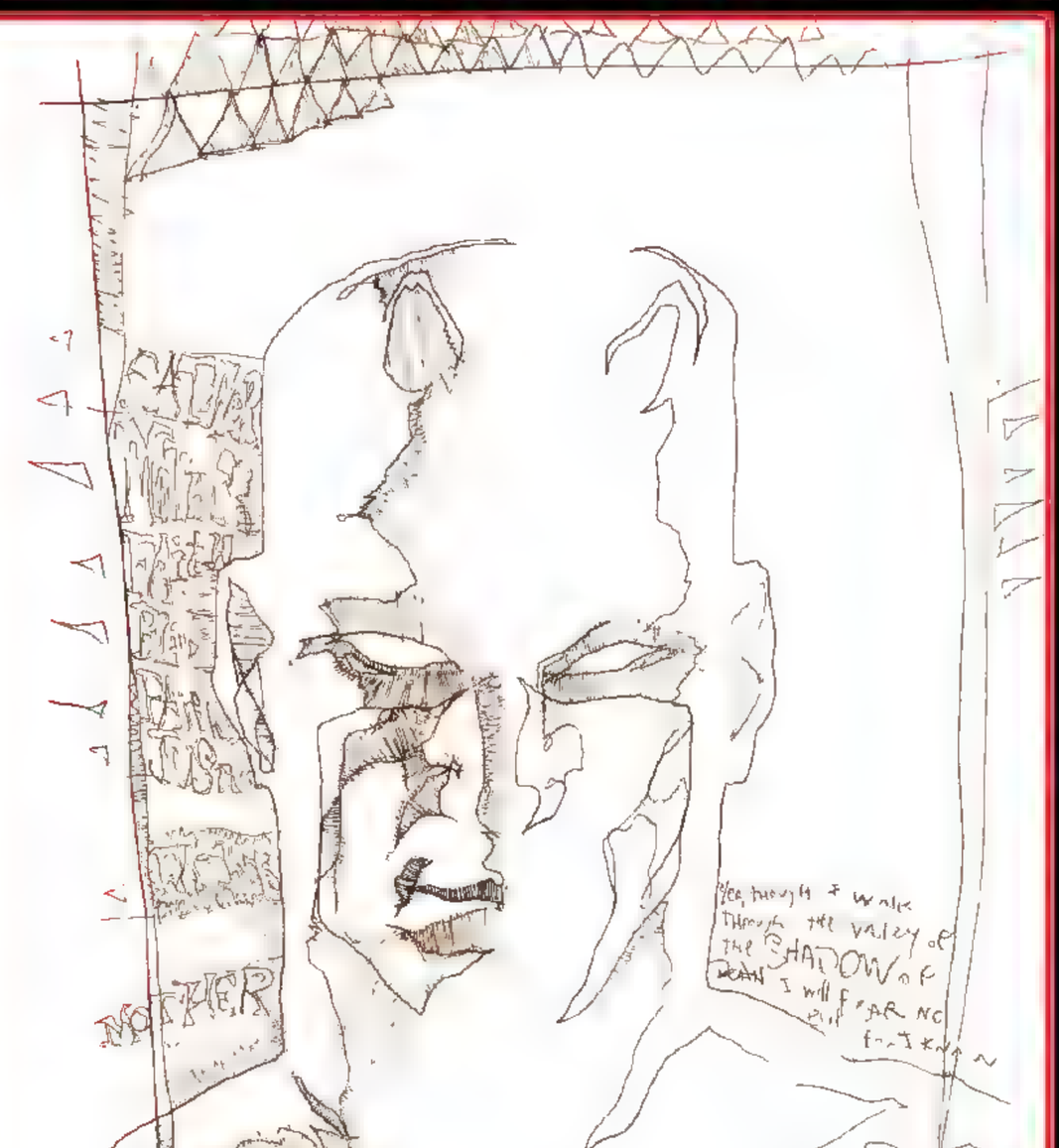
I Look into the paintings...

And I See myself.

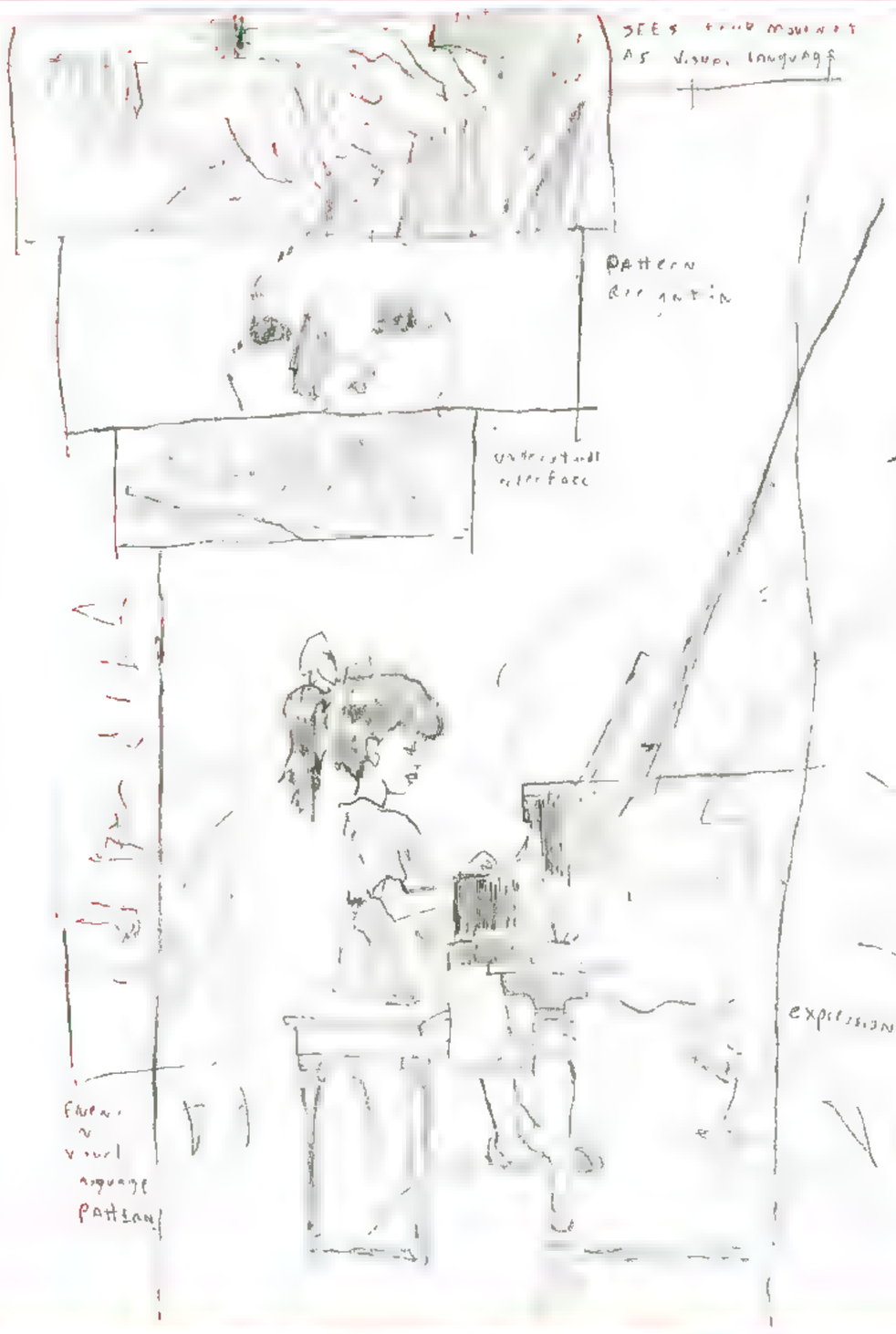
Color must be what Sound is like if you can Hear.

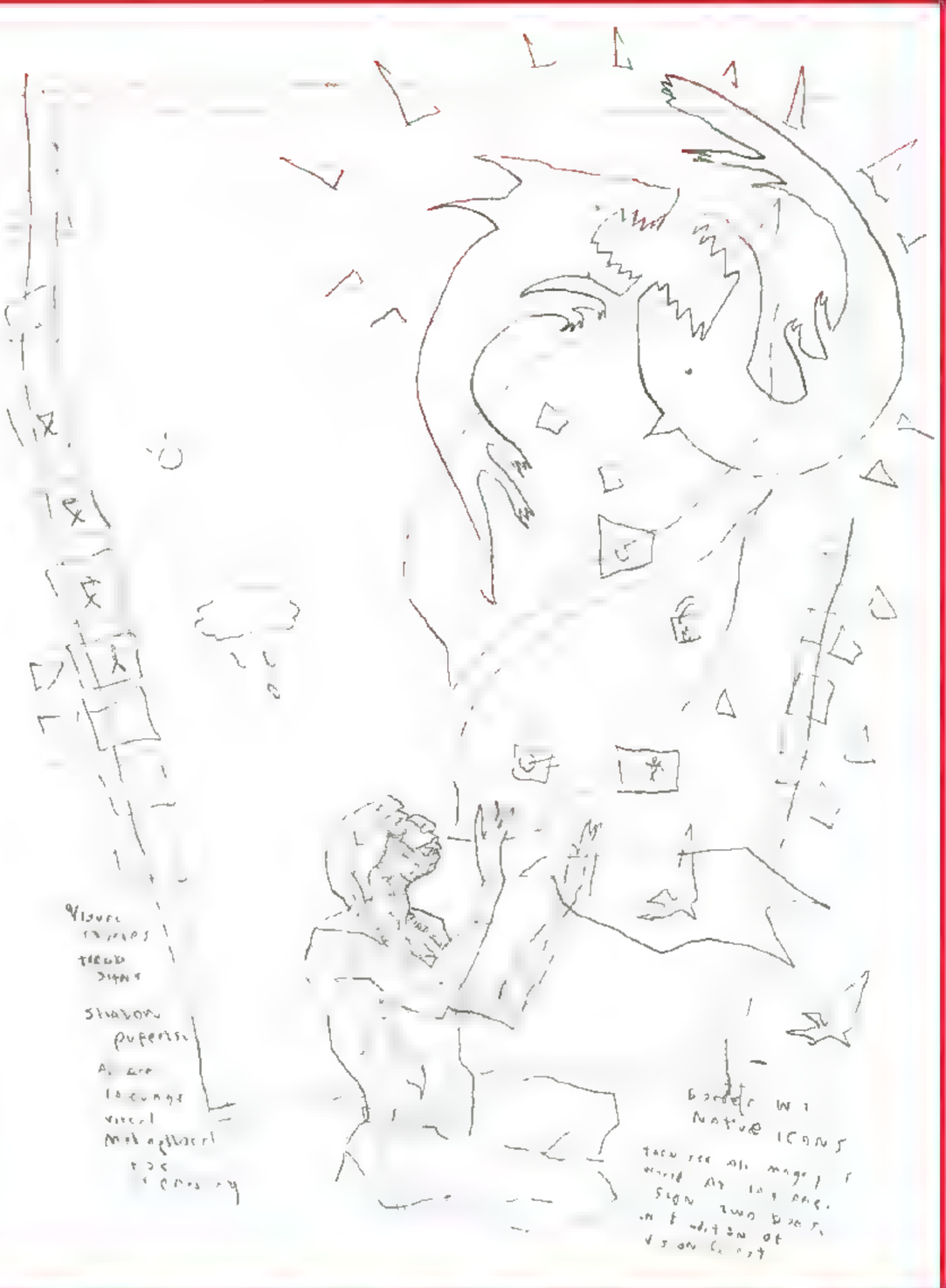
And Some painters know how to put the colors together in just the right way.

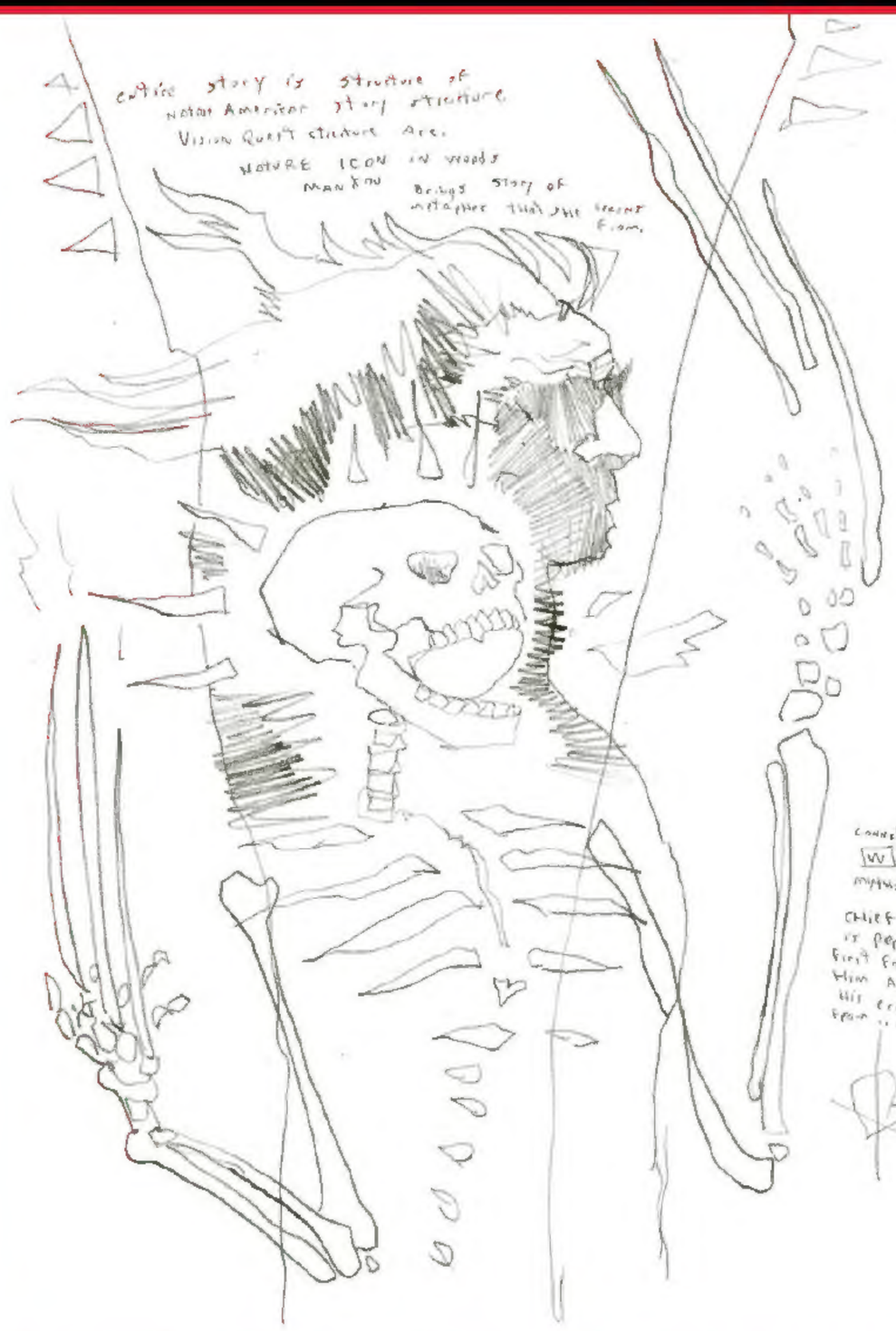
That I imagine it is like music

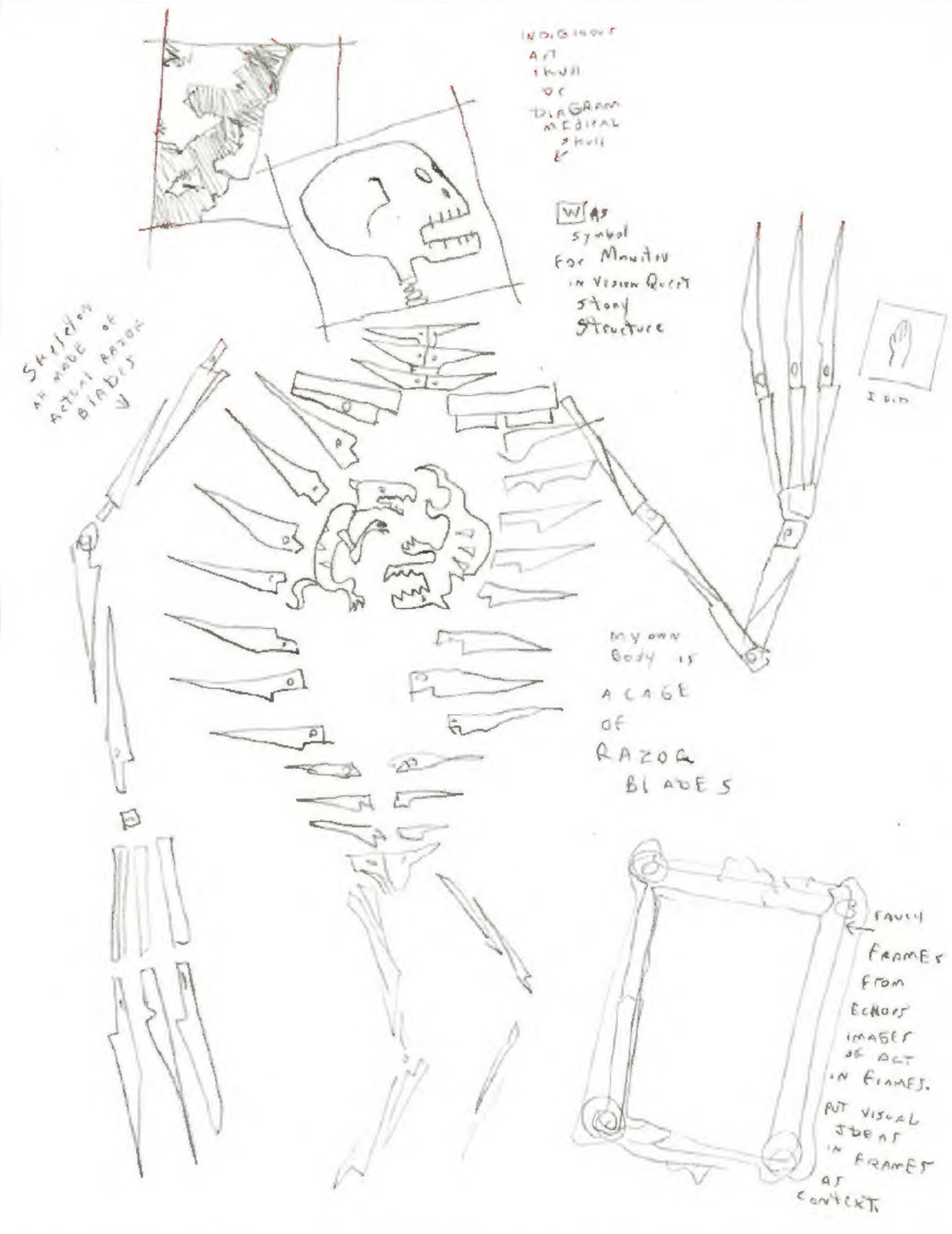


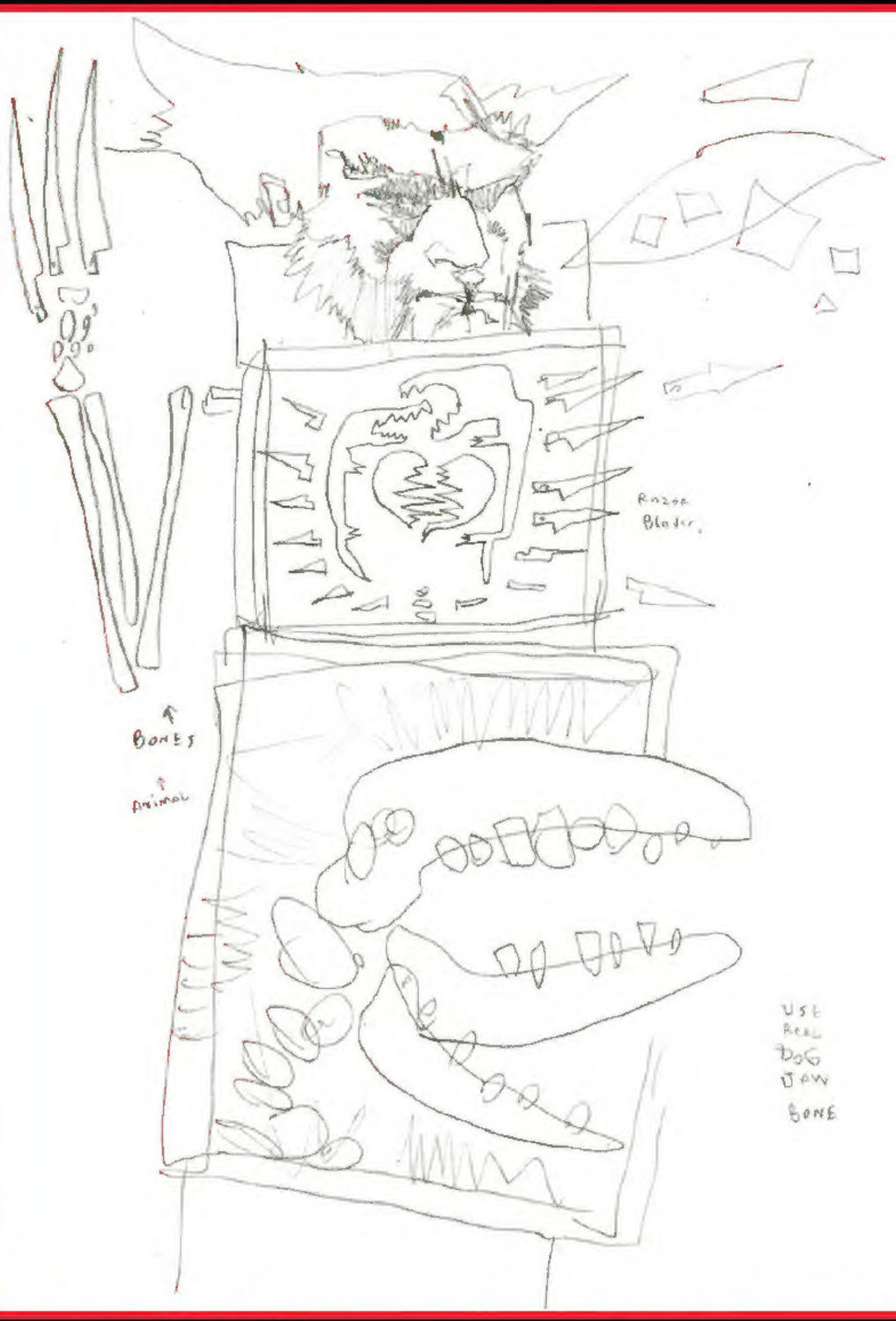
DAD
MOM
ME
THE WORLD

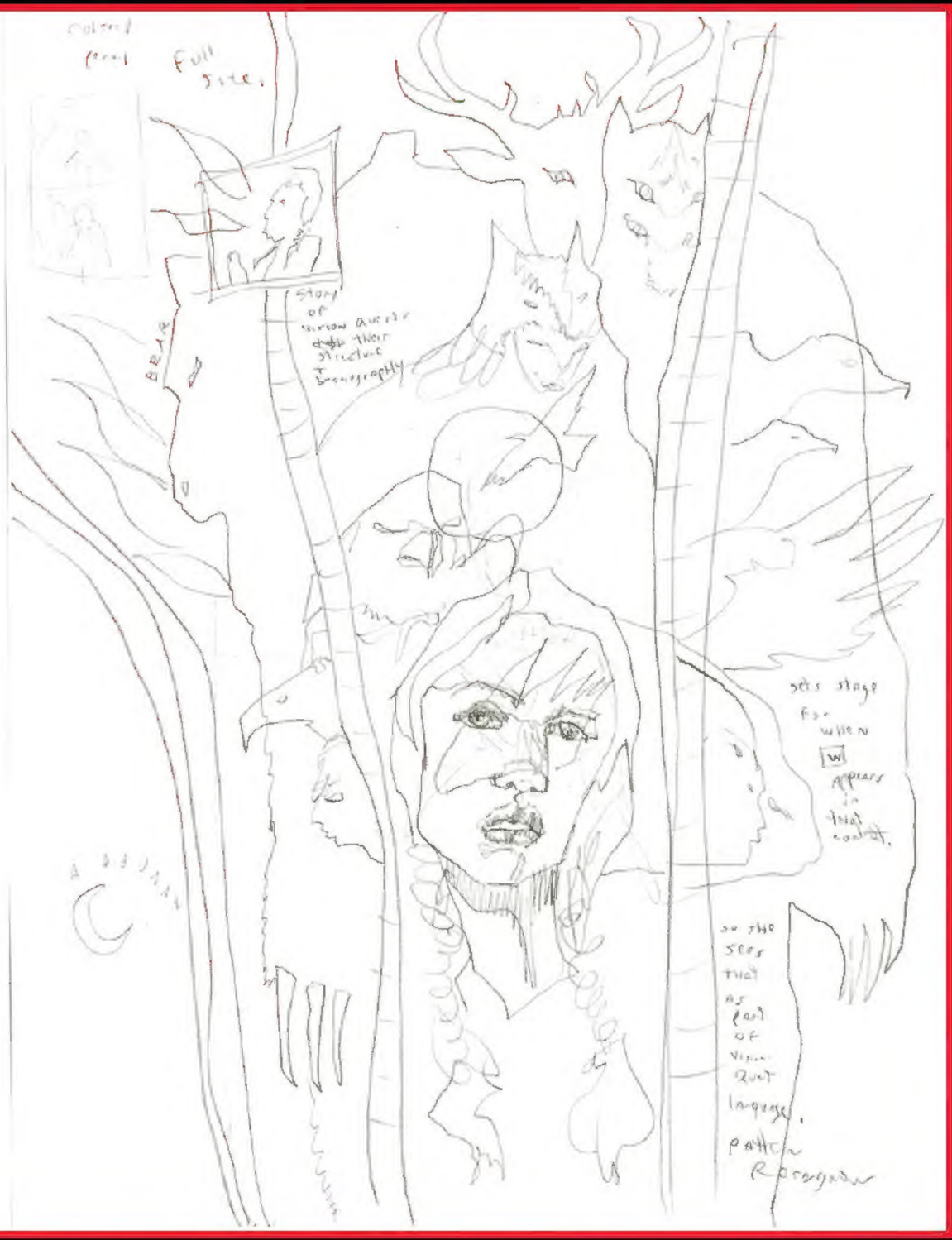

SEES
AS
Pattern
understand
interface
expression


Visual
Native Icons


entire story is structure of
Native American story structure.
Vision Quest structure Arc.
NATURE ICON in woods
MAN ICON
Brings story of
metaphor that the recent
From.
connects
VV
mythology
CHIEF
is person
first found
Him After
His escape
from


INDIGENOUS
Art
Skull
or
DIAGRAM
MEDICAL
Skull
W as
Symbol
For Monitor
in Vision Quest
Story
Structure
Skeleton
AS MADE OF
ACTUAL RAZOR
BLADES
I Am
my own
Body is
A CAGE
OF
RAZOR
BLADES
FAULTY
FRAMES
FROM
ECHOES
IMAGES
OF ACT
IN FRAMES.
PUT VISUAL
IDEAS
IN FRAMES
AS
CONTEXT.


Razor
Blades.
BONES
Animal
USE
Real
DOG
JAW
BONE


Colored
panel
Full
Size.
BEAR
Story
of
Native Americans
their
structure
Iconography
sets stage
for
when
W
appears
in
that context.
so the
sets
that
as
part
of
Vision
Quest
language.
pattern
Recognition

It might seem that Hell's Kitchen would be perpetually warm, safe from the biting cold of winter. But for the impoverished of this neighborhood, the icy air just compounds their yearlong misery.

It's Daredevil's third hour on watch, and he hasn't moved once. The thermometer is well below freezing, and most other men would already be dead from exposure or hypothermia.

But not Daredevil. Daredevil's a super hero.

And besides, he's already dead.

At first, when Kingpin savagely murdered him, Matt Murdock foolishly believed his life was over. But even in death, Daredevil was cursed. Like a prophet for his generation, he suffers in ways that would break other men's souls. His resurrection merely completes his damnation.

Alex Maleev

DAREDEVIL

Dead Man Walking

Now he must walk in the land of the living until he solves the mystery of the Kingpin's unholy alliance with his father Jack Murdock. Only then will Daredevil be permitted eternal rest.

All Matt holds dear is now gone. Family, friends ... even his blindness. It might seem that a blind man would be grateful having his vision back, but not Daredevil. For Matt Murdock, this is just additional penance for living many long, misguided years.

In life, Daredevil used his radar senses to swing blissfully through the concrete canyons of the city. He was a Man Without Fear. But now he sees nothing but danger, and it cripples him.

Recent events have brought Daredevil closer to the truth about his father and the Kingpin. What he witnesses tonight will alter everything he believes about friends and foes.

So tonight, despite the freezing winds, Daredevil waits with the patience of a dead man.

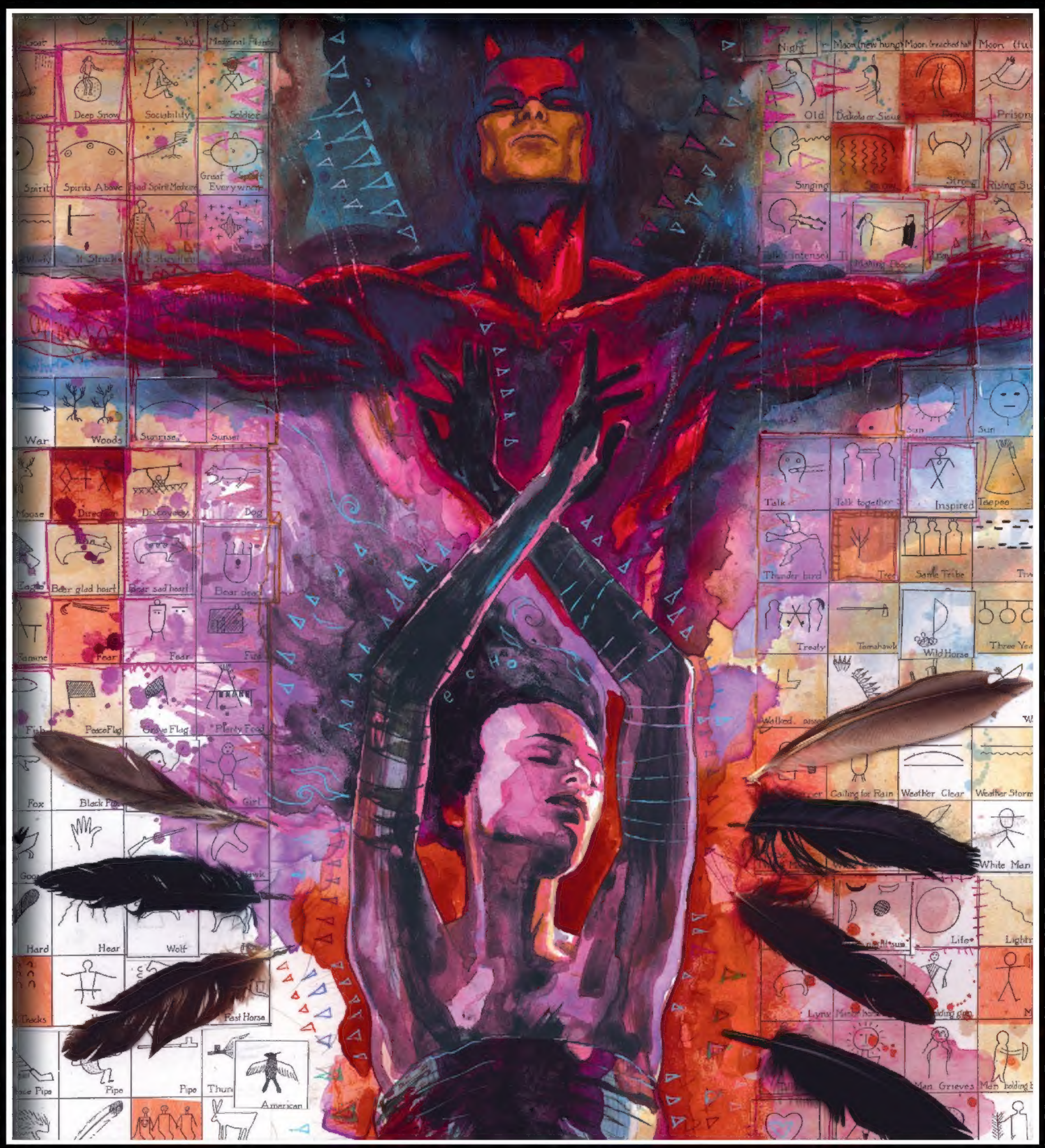
Text by Buddy Scalera

The *Marvel Knights: Millennial Visions* one-shot re-imagined the Marvel Knights characters in creative new ways.

BUDDY SCALERA & ALEX MALEEV

SEAN PHILLIPS
Marvel Knights: Millennial Visions pinup

DAZZLING DAREDEVIL STORIES FROM
CREATORS WITHOUT FEAR!



When the staff that once belonged to his mentor, Stick, is stolen, Matt Murdock is determined to get it back — even if that means joining an ancient ninja battle between the Seven and the Hand! When villains from Gladiator to Stilt-Man target the Kingpin, Daredevil and his old friend Spider-Man must stand in the way! When a rich client hires Matt to sue Daredevil, it's time for everyone's favorite attorney to play to the camera — but where does the Jester fit in? And Echo returns, courtesy of her co-creator, David Mack! In a bid to pick up the pieces of her shattered life, Maya Lopez embarks on a Native American vision quest — but she never expected to encounter Wolverine!

MK XX

MARVEL T+

Daredevil: Ninja #1-3,
Daredevil/Spider-Man #1-4,
Daredevil (1998) **#20-25** and **#51-55,**
and **Spider-Man/Daredevil #1**